

VHY WATCH YOUR DIATOR LIKE A HAWK?



BE SAFE ALL WINTER LONG WITH "PRESTONE" ANTI-FREEZE!

Put "Prestone" anti-freeze into your car now . . . and forget about freeze-up, boil-away, foaming, replacing, rust and corrosion. One shot lasts all winter. You're safe-and you know it!

That's why "Prestone" brand antifreeze has been used in more cars than any other brand of winter protection ... why it is the choice of the U.S. Army, Navy and 25 other Federal Bureaus!

"Prestone" anti-freeze is ethylene glycol plus exclusive inhibitors and special processing that make it America's finest anti-freeze. GUARANTEED IN WRITING. See your dealer today,



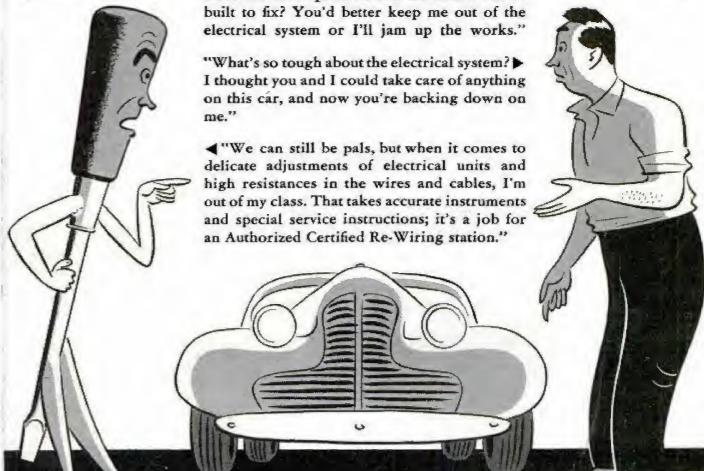
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"PRESTONE" Anti-freeze "THERE'S NOTHING

One Screwdriver to Another

"Say, mister, did you ever stop to think that there are some parts of this car that I wasn't



FOR EXPERT ELECTRICAL SERVICE— GET PACKARD CERTIFIED RE-WIRING SERVICE

Power, pick-up, gasoline economy and safe lighting are lost when your car's electrical system gets out of adjustment. It may be something wrong in one of the electrical units; it may be an undersize or corroded cable that makes the whole system go haywire. Whatever the trouble, a Certified Re-Wiring check-up will uncover it, and an expert Certified Re-Wiring mechanic will correct it with

proper instruments. All necessary cable replacements are made with quality Packard cable. Look for the Packard Certified Re-Wiring Service sign.

DEALERS

Have your Packard jobber show you "Copper Dollars," the new Packard film that explains Certified Re-Wiring, Packard Electric Division, General Motors Corporation, Warren, Ohio.





THE STANDARD WIRING EQUIPMENT OF THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

This One





BELL TELEPHONE SYSTEM



Popular Mechanics Magazine

H. H. WINDSOR, Founder

H. H. WINDSOR, Jr., Editor and Publisher

October, 1940

Vol. 74, No. 4

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Meet Your 1941 Car

SECRETS of next year's automobiles are guarded almost as closely as a weather report in Europe. Nevertheless we can't keep secrets forever, so next month we'll show you the 1941 cars. You'll find plenty of "torpedo" bodies in the new crop, with further advanced streamlining. You'll find gayer color than ever, inside and out. And under the hood you'll find the horsepower has been stepped up. That's all we'll say today. Watch for the November issue and see your next car for yourself.

Counting in the Next President

BACK in 1916 newspaper extras had Hughes elected. So close was the vote that not until Thursday night could The Associated Press name the winner, Woodrow Wilson. That was the first big test of the AP election tabulating system which, barring a "photo finish" like that of '16, will tell sometime election night whether it's Roosevelt or Willkie. Read next month how the AP collects the returns.

Next Month

Palmer turned on his ultraviolet lamp. Weird fish swam toward it like moths to a flame; soon they would roll over and over, as if intoxicated. And while the beam trapped them, he captured them on movie film. This was the beginning of many thrilling undersea adventures for the young scientist, described in a November feature, "Trappers of the Deep." Read how a porpoise tried to swallow his lamp, and how he escaped from an octopus.

Growing 'Em Bigger

SHOCK treatment is playing tricks on Nature. With a shock dose of colchicine, the chemical plant engineer creates giant marigolds and ten-inch dahlias. He drugs the watermelon and tomato into bearing seedless fruit, produces spearmint with a new flavor, develops fast-growing trees and hardier orchard stock. Now the chemist is hunting vitamins to be fed to plants through irrigation ditches. Next month read "Growing 'Em Bigger with Chemicals."

Seaplaning for Sport

A MERICA, air-minded these many years, is just finding out that seaplanes are fun. For a reasonable sum you can add pontoons to your little sport plane and drop in on a mountain lake or fly across the continent, sure of good landing places. Even a city reservoir will do in emergency. An article in November tells how seaplanes are sweeping the country.

Published monthly by POPULAR MECHANICS COMPANY, 200 East Ontario Street, Chicago, U. S. A. Single copy in the United States, 25 cents; subscription rates in United States and possessions, and countries of the Pan-American Postal Union including Spain, \$2.50 a year, \$4.00 for two years, \$5.00 for three years. Single copy in Canada, 30 cents; subscription rates, \$3.00 a year, \$5.00 for two years, \$6.50 for three years. To all other countries add \$1.00 a year over United States prices for overseas postage. Changes in address must be reported to us immediately to eliminate delay Entered as Second Class Matter, Sept. 15, 1903, at the Post Office at Chicago, Illinois, under Act of March 3, 1879. Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office Department, Canada. Copyright 1940, by Popular Mechanics Company, in the United States, Australia, and France. Printed in the U. S. A.



When the Gasoline Tank Is Being Serviced and the Crankcase Checked, Be Sure to Add Pyroil to Both—for the Protection of Your Car and for its Improved Performance

Ask your service station salesman to tell you about Pyroil. About the singular value it has for protect-ing your car, whether new or old. Find out from him HOW Pyroil accomplishes its benefits and improves performance.

For ten years, millions of car owners have proved the merits of Pyroil to their enthusiastic satisfac-tion. They have formed the habit of using Pyroil regularly.

Your service station or garage salesman will add a mere few ounces of Pyroll to the gasoline tank and to the crankcase with each filling or addition. Then look for less wear on your engine. Better engine operation. Longer engine life. Less danger from contaminations such as hard carbon, sludge, gum, acid-corrosion. Fewer repairs.

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510 Pyroil Bidg., LaCrosse, Wisconsin,
I'd like to have your Free Booklet, "Questions and
Answers", telling many interesting and important facts about Pyroll. Send Details of your plan for Distributors. Address.... City or town

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AUTOMOTIVE
Snapping disk guards generator against heat
AVIATION Air flow shown in model airplane tests
BOATS AND BOATING Barge with eight-inch guns forms floating fort
CONSTRUCTION "Reverse blast" anchors new road in swamp
FARMS Turbines pump water from sea-level farm545 Dustpan wheelbarrow loads and dumps itself557 Tractor power digs post hole in ten seconds576
HOUSEHOLD Electric "brain" puts washer through routine
LAWN AND GARDENS Long-arm sprinkler for garden
Tiny 1940 car has all operating features
PHOTOGRAPHY Tall tripod gets pictures at odd angles
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SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

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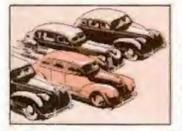
How does this new kind of spark plug make cars run so much better?

TO WONDER car owners are astonished when sluggish, pepless motors suddenly take on new life! Thousands are finding new Auto-Lite Spark Plugs end starting troubles, give flashing pickup and power and

restore gasoline economy.

For the new Auto-Lite Spark Plug was expressly designed to improve car performance by stepping up the efficiency of the entire ignition system. It employs a new-type Konium electrode with a new geometric gap design that produces a more effective spark with less effort. It is protected against leakage and cracking by the wonderful new "Ziramic" insulator with its triple

See why owners of all makes of cars are so enthusiastic about Auto-Lite performance. Try a set of new Auto-Lites in your car today!



ONE OUT OF EVERY FOUR NEW CARS is now factoryequipped with Auto-Lite Spark Plugs. They have been adopted by leading car manufacturers after the most exhaustive and convincing tests.

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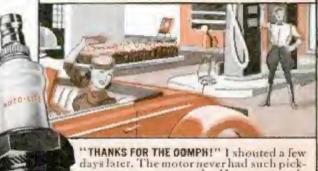
TOLEDO, OHIO

SARNIA, ONT.

"SOUNDS BAD, MISS!" said the service man.
"What sounds bad?" I retorted. "This engine," he said. "Missing—no pomph. What new Auto-Lite Plugs wouldn't do for this car!"



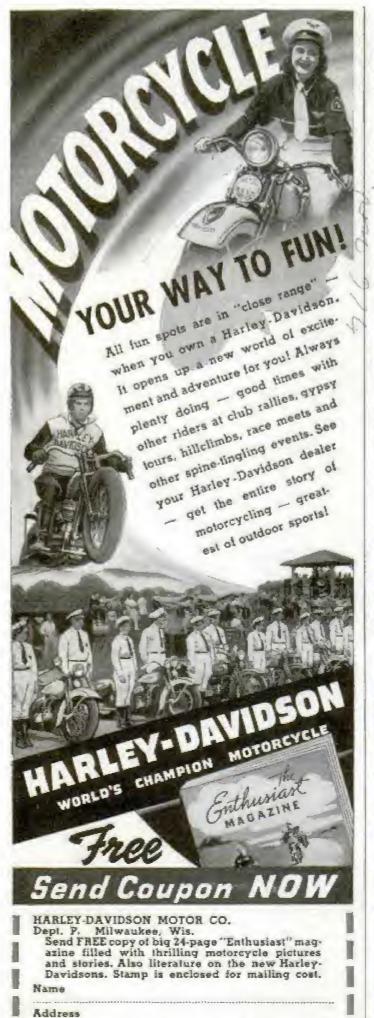
"AREN'T ALL SPARK PLUGS ALIKE?" I said. "No. MAM! You'd see, the minute you changed to Auto-Lites! Save gas, too," "Alright, smarty, put in your magic Spark Plugs," I said.



up, never ran so sweetly. He won a steady customer with those new Anto-Lites.

Ignition Engineered by Ignition Engineers

DELITE SPARK PLUGS



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WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

You'RE like a million other men—you're facing a big question. The depression turned business topsy-turvy and now the rebuilding period stares you in the face.

Are the things that are happening today going to help or hinder you—what will they mean in your pay check? Where will they put you five, ten, twenty years from now? How can you take full advantage of this period of opportunity?

We believe you will find the answer here—a suggestion the soundness of which can be proven to you as it has been to thousands of other men.

The whole trend today—legislation, spirit, action—is to put men back to work, raise earning and spending power, give every man a fair chance to work out his own salvation.

The road to success remains unchanged but, bear this in mind, what it takes to win is radically different!

No employer today would dare risk an important post in the hands of a man who had not learned the lesson of '29. Why should he, when right at this moment he can pick and choose and get almost any man he wants at his own price?

Business organizations are rebuilding—reorganizing for the new conditions. Before it is over every man and every method will be judged in the cold light of reason and experience—then dropped, remade or retained. This spells real opportunity for the man who can meet the test—but heaven help the man who still tries to meet today's problems from yesterday's standpoint! Out of the multitude still

jobless there are sure to be many frantically eager to prove him wrong and take his place.

Some Men Have Found the Answer

Sceing these danger signs, many aggressive men and women are quietly training at home—are wisely building themselves for more efficient service to their employers.

You naturally ask, "Has your training helped men withstand conditions of the last few years?"

Our answer is to point to a file of letters from many of our students reporting pay raises and promotions while business was at its lowest ebb—together with a myriad of others telling of greater success during these recent months of recovery.

Unusual evidence is ready for your investigation. We have assembled much of it in a booklet that is yours for the asking, along with a new and vitally interesting pamphlet on your business field.

This is a serious study of the possibilities and opportunities in that field. It is certain to contain an answer to vital questions bothering you today about your own work and earning power.

Send for these booklets—coupon brings them free. Be sure to check the LaSalle training that interests you most. We will tell you also how you can meet and take fullest advantage of today's



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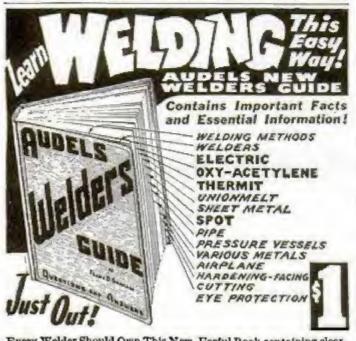
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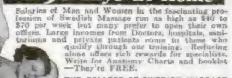
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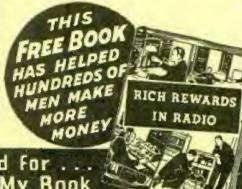
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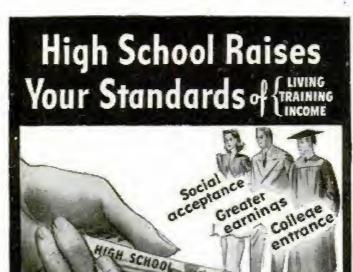
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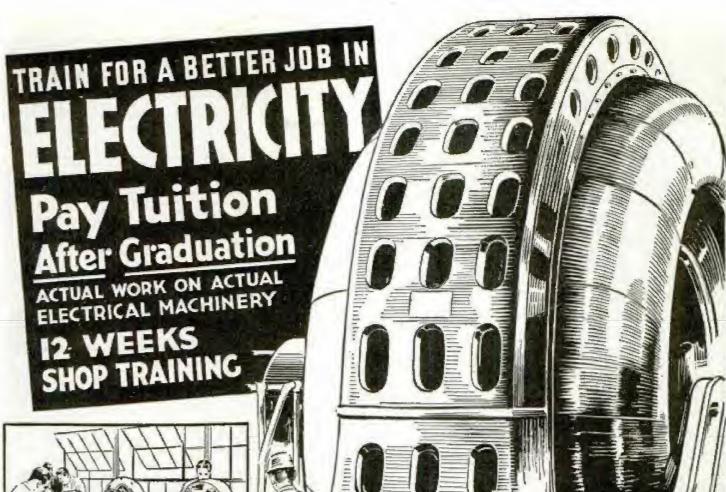
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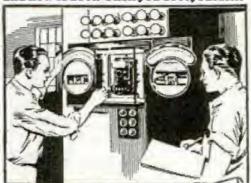
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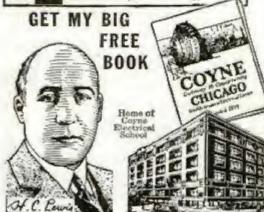
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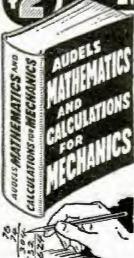
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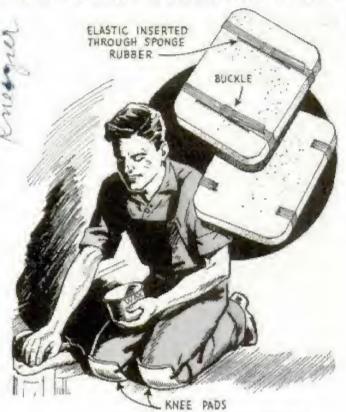
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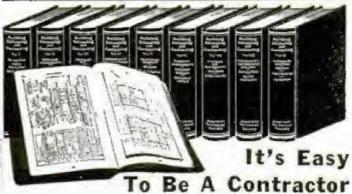
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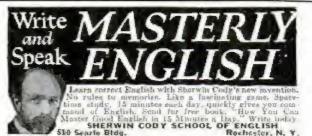
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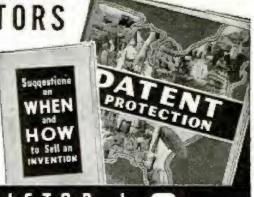
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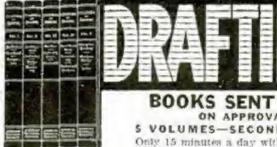
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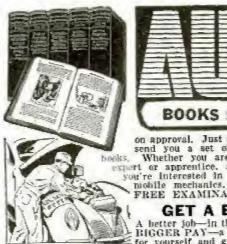
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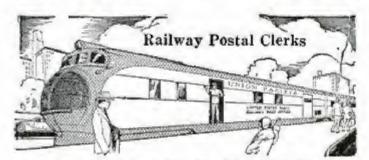
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SELL New Idea Christmas cards—21 for \$1. Can be "personalized" to relatives with free metallic gold seals. Make 100% profit. Name-imprinted Christmas cards, 50 for \$1. Samples on approval. Friend-ship, 895 Adams, Elmira, New York.

AGENTS! Men's suits 88c, pants 23c, top coats 50c, ladies' coats 36c, dresses 10c. Other used clothing bargains. Catalog free, Portney, 566-P Roosevelt, Chicago.

CHRISTMAS Card leader brings you quick cash profits, Sensational "Beauty Queen" 21-card assortment sells \$1.00, You make 100%. Ten other fast-selling assortments. Personal Christmas cards, 50 for \$1, up. Samples on approval. Chilton Greetings, 147 Essex, Dept. A-2, Boston, Mass.

EXTRA Money quick! Sell super-value personal Christmas cards, 50—with name—\$1. Pinest 21-card assortment, \$1. You make 50c. Complete line, Samples on approval, Waltham Art Publishers, 160 N. Washington, Dept. 357, Boston, Mass.

Washington, Dept. 357, Boston, Mass.

SELL New, used clothing from home, auto. store. Men's suits 77c. leather jackets 29c. overcoats 54c. dresses 20c. ladies' coats 36c. Other bargains. Catalog free, National 436 East 31st. Chicago.

WEAR Fine hose I send without cost with large outfit while taking orders for amazing new hosiery. Replacement guaranteed against holes, snags, and runs. Rush name and hose size. Wilknit, Desk CO-37, Greenfield, Chio,

CHRISTMAS Cards. Earn \$2 an hour. Take orders galore from friends. 50 ex-

Take orders galore from friends. 50 exquisite folders with name \$1. Free samples 30 designs. America's fastest selling 21 Christmas folder box. Costs 50c. sells \$1. Request samples today, Sunshine Art, Dept. E-3, 154 Nassau St., New York City.

REVOLUTIONARY Window cleaning tool. Good Housekeeping approval. Only ten \$2.25 sales daily to housewives. factories. schools stores will make you \$350.00 monthly. Carter Products Corp., 910 Front Ave. Cleveland. Ohio.

SELL 50 Personal Christmas cards— \$1.00. Amazing bargain; 50 folders with customer's name imprinted. Sells fast, Pays big profits. Free samples, Also un-equaled \$1 Christmas card assortments. General Card, 400 S. Peoria St., Dept. P-71. Chicago.

OPERATE Steady business resilvering mirrors. Making chipped glass nameplates, signs. Write Sprinkle, Plater, 128. Marion,

MAKE Extra money easy. Show smart personal Christmas cards with name, 50 for \$1, up. Outstanding values. Also 21-card assortment, \$1: others. Big profits. Samples free. Wetmore & Sugden, 749 Monroe, Dept. 76. Rochester, New York,

SELL Midget Bibles. Large profits, fast sales, 2 sample Bibles, particulars, 25c. Leon Anderson, Cadillac, Michigan.

CHEMICAL Sponge cleans cars like magic. Banishes auto-washing drudgery, New! Hot seller! Samples sent on trial. Write "Inventor," 120 Kristee Bidg., Akron, Ohio.

ron. Ohio.

EASY Money selling graduation cards, 35% commission, Samples free! Printery, 226 Madison, Pittsburgh, Penna.

CHRISTMAS Card salespeople—Best sellers, You make 50c on new 21-folder \$1 assortment. Christmas cards with name, 50 for \$1. Other big-profit assortments, Experience unnecessary. 50c sample on approval. Schwer, Dept. X-4, Westfield, Mase

CASH For your services. Opportunity, 714 Westfield, Camden, New Jersey.

CALL On friends with greeting card assortments. Easter, birthdays, other occasions. Big demand. Big profits. Also personal stationery. Experience unnecessary. Samples free. Wallace Brown, 225 Fifth Ave., Dept. S-34, New York.

SELL 50 Christmas cards with name for \$1.00! Four complete, sensational lines! 35 sparkling designs! Amazing values! Box assortments too. Big profits. Experi-ence unnecessary, Samples free. Noel Studios. 9 East 26th, Dept. D-27, New Studios. 9 York City.

SELL Used clothing bargains from home. store, auto. Shoes 15c. men's suits, over-coats 75c, dresses 10c. Experience unnec-essary. Free wholesale catalog. Superior Jobbing, 1250-ED Jefferson, Chicago.

SCHOOL Seniors—Earn \$25 up. Selling graduation cards. Fine opportunity. Large catalogue. Agency waiting. Craftcards, Box 235. (PM). Pittsburgh.

AGENTS, Crew managers, popular priced cosmetic osmetic items, exclusive territories. 'Love Lee" Cosmetics, 20 W, 22, New York City,

ONE Reference and 25c stamps bring you sample outfit to start making meney immediately with Mexican art goods. Tremendous market. Big profits, Marquezp Company. Apartado 1176, Mexico City.

LIFE Of Wendel Willkie. Large illustrated book. Big money. Terms free. 400 other books and Bibles. Mead Company, Middletown. New York.

Middletown. New York.

A CURE For clogged drains. Get a city, make fortune. Silent Valve Co., 3420 Fletcher Dr., Eagle Rock, Calif.

AGLNTS—200% Profit on amazing new discovery. Cleans, polishes, waxes cars in 30 minutes, Magic all-purpose polish. Instant demonstration sells most skeptical auto owner and housewife. Send 25c for 75c size, Enduro, 2420-D Grand River, Detroit, Mich.

500% PROPIT, Gold and silver colored sign letters, Offices—stores. Large sizes Ic. Free samples, Modernistic, B-3000 Lincoln Ave., Chicago.

COMIC Christmas seals and cards, Sam-

COMIC Christmas seals and cards. Sample 10c. Rogge, Grayslake, Illinois,
BRAND New! Two tremendously profitable, fast-selling automobile products.
Territories open. Particulars free,
Thermo-Solvo, Peorla, Ill.

AMAZING New, safety-tread, self-pol-ishing, non-slip, waterproof liquid wax 160% profit! Big repeater, Guaranteed sales! Staminite Corporation, Dept. 55, New Haven, Conn.

New Haven, Conn.

CHRISTMAS Cards. New. Different, 50 name imprinted, sells \$1. Largest profits. Complete line box assortments. Special bonuses. Free samples, descriptive folder. Pen-Brush Studios, 154 Nassau Street. New York, N. Y.

MONOGRAMMING Automobiles real money maker. Write for samples, International Co.. Box 9360, Philadelphia, Pa.

national Co. Box 9360, Philadelphia, Pa. EVERYBODY Buys sensational "Golden Rule" assortment, 21 Christmas foiders including souvenir calendar. Free Christmas motto with each box. Unparalleled value, Costs you 50c. sells on sight for \$1.00. Actual retail value \$3.00. Ten other bargain assortments, Everybody, all ages, making easy-as-pie sales. Nothing to lose, Sample "Golden Rule" assortment sent on approval, with free offer. Silver Swan Studios, 320 Fifth Avenue, Department 46, New York. New York.

BIG Money taking orders; shirts, ties, hosiery, underwear, pants, jackets, raincoats, uniforms, etc. Sales equipment free, Experience unnecessary. Nimrod, 4922-AN Lincoln, Chicago.

WINDOW Sign letters. Penny each, large sizes. New styles. Absolutely beautiful. Free samples, Atlas, 7941 Halsted, Chicago.

Chicago.

MEN And women wanted, full or spare time to sell Sayman products house to house, Write T. M. Sayman Products Co., St. Louis, Mo. Dept. K3.

AGENTS, Smash go prices! Santos coffee 12c lb. 4-oz. vanilla 8½c. Razor blades 10 for 8½c. 100 sticks chewing gum 12c. Christmas cards, 21 in box, 14c. 150 other bargains. Premiums, Experience unnecessary. Carnation Company, PO. St. Louis, Mo.

AGENTS: Stamping names on pocket-key protectors. Sample check with your name, address. 25c. Stamping outfits. Emblem checks, check-fobs, name plates. Hart Mig. Co., 303 Degraw St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

CALL On service stations. New item, necessity big profits, Knipp, Long Beach, California.

FREE Sample—Amazing cleaner: sells homes, taverns, everywhere, Big profit-fast repeater. Betco, 5007 Irving Park, Chicago.

BIG Money applying initials on automobiles. Easiest thing today. Free samples. Also, sideline salesmen for short order decalcomania name plates "Raico." 1305 decalcomania name plates Washington, Boston, Mass.

SUCCEED With your products. Make-sell them, Pormulas, Processes, Accurate analyses, Catalog free, B, Thaxly Co., Washington, D. C.

DO You want agents for your proposition? Your ad in this space will place your message before hundreds of men seeking fast-selling products. My folder "How to Secure Agents," is filled with proof. I'll gladly send you a copy free. F. W. Johnson, Manager Classified Advertising, Popular Mechanics Magazine, 200 E. Ontario St., Chicago.

MANUFACTURE Specialties, hire agents yourself. Big money. Free literature, Gilbert Supply, 5-P West 24th, New York.

AGENTS-300% Profit selling gold leaf letters; stores and offices Free samples, Metallic Letter Co., 435-B North Clark, Chicago.

ENGRAVED Name plates, numbers, signs, etc., easily sold, profits large, Brett Bros., Winthrop, Mass,

GOOD Paying business silvering mirrors, plating autoparts, reflectors, bicycles, bathroom fixtures by late method. Free particulars and proofs. Gunmetal Co. Ave. N. Decatur, Ill.

AGENTS — Opportunity make money; book containing 127 successful business plans; home-office; send for free introductory booklet. Elite Co., 214 Grand St., New York.

AGENTS Make big profits on food products, bargain deals, Low wholesale prices. Rush name for trial outfit offer. Ho-Ro-Co, 2810-T Dodler, St. Louis, Mo.

AGENTS—To mail our literature. Good profits. Home business. Maywood, 1105-1107 Broadway. New York.

HIGH-GRADE SALESMEN

MAKE Money selling calendars, Largest, most complete line in field. Widest price range. Newest designs—De luxe, hangers, direct on, commercial, thermometer, metal, miniature. Christmas card calendars, Big commissions. Four different selling outfits sent free. Write today. Capitol Calendars. Dept. 510, Gladys at Hamilton, Station D. Chicago.

NEW Kind of man's shoe increases height two inches. Also styles that zip on and off. Pays salesmen ready cash every day. Complete sales kit, including almost 250 styles for men and women, sent free. No experience needed. Write manufacturer established 38 years. Mason Shoe Manufacturing Company, Dept. BC-22, Chipnewa Falls, Wisconstin. facturing Company, D pewa Falls, Wisconsin.

SELL Business cards, stationery, book matches, gummed tape, restaurant necessities, salesbooks, advertising specialties, pencils, picture cards, straws, paper towels, napkins, ice cards. Lowest prices, napkins, ice cards. Sales portfolio free. Willens, 2130 Gladys, Dept. BA. Chicago.

REVOLUTIONARY New invention, Thousands prospects everywhere, Men carning high as \$100.00-\$150.00 week, Placed on free trial. Sells itself. Orders financed by factory, Protected territory available, Free demonstrator offer, Salesmanager, 2440 Lincoln Ave., Dept, R-245, Chicago. REVOLUTIONARY New invention.

ADVERTISING Book matches offer liberal earnings—full, spare time. Experience unnecessary. Factory direct. Low prices for fine quality, quick deliveries, help get orders; faster repeats. All business firms prospects. Free outfit, instructions. American Match & Printing Co., Dept. 610, 4822 South Trumbuil Ave., Chicago.

SALESMEN! Collect \$4 profit from ev-ery service station and garage. New in-vention revolutionizing industry. Vernon Co., Newton, Iowa.

SENSATIONAL Quick-cash opportunity, My route building plan gives you chance for good steady income. Real future. Handle regular route local stores. Collect, deliver orders for famous 5c-10c counter display goods. Nationally advertised in 120 magazines and radlo. Show merchants proven plan for beating competition and increasing sales, profits. Experience unnecessary. Use home as headquarters. Chance to operate Silver Fleet service truck. Facts free. World's Products Co., Dept. 10-D. Spencer. Indiana. SENSATIONAL Quick-cash opportunity,

CALENDARS—Beautiful complete line, all sizes, including jumbos. Samples free, Also Christmas cards. Fleming Calendar Company, 6539 Cottage Grove, Chicago.

BIG Commissions—selling to stores celluloid pricing tickets, metal shelf moulding. To restaurants, menu covers, signs, P. Pricing Press, 124 White St., New York.

SALESMEN. Route men. distributors, cash in on new fast selling 10 cent side line that will pay all expenses. Act quick, Lovely, 1734-A Washington, St. Louis, Mo.

VISIBLE Looseleaf filing system (book form). Files present records. Undersell others. 50% commission. Visible Filing Co., Kaylor, S. D.

SELL Complete line calendars and printing at cut prices, 100 four color calendars \$1.95; 2,000 business cards \$1.50; 1.000 envelopes or statements, etc. \$1.75; 25 printed sales books \$1.50; 1,000 process embosed cards \$1.50; 2,000 two-color labels, free holder \$1.50; 2,000 printed handbills \$1.75, One-third comm. Free outfit. Bargain Pric. Co., 189-F W. Madison, Chicago.

SELL Firex—Automatic fire extinguisher and alarm. Endorsed by fire chiefs. Prospects unlimited—good commissions. Write today. Firex Corporation, Dept. K-100, 516 South Broadway, St. Louis, Mo.

SELL Dentists, excellent line, high earnings. Write Stone, 208 W. 29th, New York City.

ADVERTISING Book matches—World's largest manufacturer of union label book matches. Fast selling line. Large sales producing kit. Sample matches, complete cut catalog. 9 color combinations makes selling easy. Commission in advance, Superior Match Co., 7530 Greenwood, Dept. M-10, Chicago.

WRITE For new free catalog fast-selling numbers, carded merchandise, razor blades, aspirin, pocket combs, etc. National Sup-ply Company, Richmond, Virginia.

ply Company, Richmond, Virginia.

EARN Money demonstrating and selling The Winner. A new game everyone enjoys playing. Send sixty cents for sample and full particulars. National Advertising Service, Herald Bidg., Syracuse, N. Y.

MAKE Big money! Demonstrate automatic electric hot dog cooker. Sells on sight. Eating places, taverns, drug stores wild about it. Write for big profit deal. Wienie Chef. 2301 W. Hubbard. Dept. X-18, Chicago. Chicago.

SELL Auto finance course. Unusual op-portunity. Nebraska Finance Co., Lincoln, Nebraska.

SALESMEN, Distributors; 200 items, brushes, mops, marvelous magnetic brush, excels vacuum cleaner, Highest commissions, Neway Brush Co., Hartford, Conn. NEW! Patented! Men's self adjusting leather belt, Marvelous comfort, Wonderful demonstrator, Hig commissions, Pree belt offer, Self-Plex, 360 N. Michigan, Dept. PM-10, Chicaso.

MAN, Wanted, Trustmenths.

Dept. PM-19. Chicago.

MAN Wanted—Trustworthy, steady worker, Manufacturer established 50 years will finance responsible man with complete stock of guaranteed food, farm and household necessities—you pay when sold. Mighty attractive proposition. Products well advertised on radio—a big belp to success. Fleasant outdoor work. Experience not necessary. No slack seasons or layoffs. Write for no-investment offer, McConnon and Co., Room TK66. Winona, Minn, Minn

Minn.

NOKOROSO. One application positively cures all corrosion for life of battery. Trial tube 25c. 300% profit salesmen. Aristo. Dept. P. Plainfield, N. J.

BIO Firms need men—you, With or without experience they offer you daily cash money for your spare or full time. You can choose the company from hundreds of well established firms who are ready to help you make money working for them. No matter where you live or what your age is, here is your chance. Long established magazine tells how. Six issues sent to you free to get acquainted. No obligation now or ever. Send name on card today to "What to Sell," Box Mio, 168 N. Michigan, Chicago, Ill.

WANTED: Permanent representative

WANTED: Permanent representative WANTED: Permanent representative for Hoover uniforms—waitresses, doctors, nurses. Slack ensembles, aprons, frocks. Smartest styles. Finest quality. Exceptional commissions. Line free. Hoover, 251 W. 19th St., Dept. JK-10C, New York

SELL, Hand made cigars, 10c brings samples. Box 84, York, Penna.

CHRISTMAS Leaders! 21 piece Flash assortment 15c; 50 imprint folders 25c; 25 religious imprints 25c; 100 piece gift wrap box 25c; samples \$1,00 postpaid. Illustrated catalog free! Elfko, 440 North Wells, Chicago.

NEW Specialty—Sells every business and professional man. Four \$15 sales daily pay \$280 weekly, Farrell cleared over \$1,000.00 monthly. Write F. E. Armstrong, President, Dept. PM. Mobile, Ala.

BLADES—Big profits, Best quality, Fac-tory prices, Postpaid, Ace Blades, Buf-falo, N. Y.

A REAL Future for you with Red Comet fire control products. Low prices. Preved seven years. Spiendid sales outfit free. Bome good territory open. Exclusive. Write outck. 764 Red Comet Building, Littleton, Colorada. Colorado.

EXCELLENT Opportunity selling our complete line of brushes, largest commissions. Write for sales plan, Wire Grip Sanitary Brush Company, 2300 5th Ave., New York,

PLAYS, STORIES, MANUSCRIPTS

STORIES Forcefully revised, typewrit-ten for marketing. Welton Tinney, Winns-horo, Texas,

STORIES, Articles criticized, revised, typed for market. Charbeth, Box 62, Philadelphia, Penna. STORIES,

STORY Ideas built into salable short stories for you—revised, typewritten, mar-keted, Author's Bureau, Rhinebeck, N. Y.

STORIES. Articles, books wanted for publication. New, unknown authors invit-ed. Manuscripts marketed, rovised, criti-cized. Christopher Carr, 3636A Chestnut, Philadelphia, Penna.

EDUCATIONAL AND INSTRUCTION

LEARN A trade for a better job. We teach electric and gas welding by practical shop methods. Also drafting course. Exclusive farm machinery course. Correspondence and resident instruction. Free employment service. Write today stating course desired. Trades Training. 2744 Nicollet Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

BOOKKEPERS—Broaden your field.
Pre-publication offer "Insurance Agency
Accounting" in MS. form only \$1.95 postpaid. R. E. White Insurance Systems, 704
So. Spring. Los Angeles.

So. Spring, Los Angeles.

LEARN Electroplating at home. Make big money in new profitable business. Simple, easy, quick. Plate auto-parts, reflectors, bicycles, bathroom fixtures, silverware, ornaments, musical instruments, tools, etc. See new, lustrous metal flow and renew oid worn parts instantly. Big demand. Big profits. Earn while you learn. For full details and trial lesson merely send 10c. Warner Electric Co., Dept. 5-FC, 360 No, Michigan Ave., Chicago, III. Dept. 5-1 cago, Ill.

BOOKS Of all publishers on advertising, art, color, photography, engraving, printing, offset, silk screen, journalism, sales management, correspondence, etc. Trade magazines, Discounts, List free, Commercial Engraving Publishing Company, 34C North Ritter Avenue, Indianapolis, Indiana Indiana.

"HOW To Break and Train Horses"—A book every farmer and horseman should have. It is free: no obligation. Simply address Beery School of Horsemanship, Dept. 11010, Pleasant Hill, Ohio.

WELDING—Electric arc. Learn profitable trade quickly through actual practice. Individual welder instruction at bare cost of materials. Full particulars free. Valuable welding lessons book 50c. Hobart Welding School. Box M-10404. Hobart W. Trov. Obio.

WELDERS—In demand. Train at Healey's School of Welding, 440 South Main, Ft. Worth, Tex.

AIR Conditioning-Electric refrigeration. Rapid growth creates big demand for trained men. Earn up to \$35-\$50 weekly. Write for free facts. Utilities Engineering Institute, 1314 Belden Ave., Dept. 10X. Chicago

Chicago.

WATCH Repairing is steady profitable work. Experts usually in demand. You can learn watchmaking trade at home, spare time. New original instruction system. Script engraving course included. Write for free details today! Nelson Co., 500 Sherman, Dept. J-2001, Chicago.

WORK For "Uncle Sam." \$1250-\$2100 year. Men—women. Try next examinations. Prepare immediately. List positions—particulars telling how to qualify, free. Write Franklin Institute, Dept. J3, Rochester, N. Y.

WANT Super memory? Write "Dx." Info Co., Box 1122, Chicago.

LOCKSMITH Instructions. Lock pick-

LOCKSMITH Instructions. Lock pick-ig, key fitting, etc. \$1.00 prepaid. Lock-

with, Canadian. Texas.

U. S. Government jobs. \$105-\$225, menth start. Chance for advancement, security. travel, promotions, pensions. Free particulars. National Service Bureau, 610 South Broadway, Los Angeles. Calif.

READ Character from handwriting. Instructions 25c. Chapbooks, 602 Searle

structions 25c. Chapbooks, Bldg. Rochester, N. Y.

DRAFTING—Blue-print reading, home taught. Davison Technical School, 7 East Grand, Detroit.

U. S. Government jobs now open. New home study course. No cost until you are on government payroll. Send for free information. Civil Preparatory Service, 1702-P North LaSalle. Chicago.

LEARN Telegraphy! Opportunities now available to beginners due to new railroad retirement act. Expenses low, Catalog free. Dodge's Institute, Hiatt Ave., Valparaiso, Ind.

U. S. Gov't lobs pay up to \$40 a week to start. Get ready for next examinations; railway postal, rural carrier, mail carrier, allow postal carrier, mail carrier, of the postal carrier, which can be seen and the postal carrier. Free book tells how you may qualify. Write quick. Patterson School, Dept. P. M., Rochester, N. Y.

CLINICAL Laboratory technic taught in your own home, Practice equipment supplied. Bulletin free, Imperial Technical Institute, Box 494, Eikhart, Indiana.

EARN More money—Learn decorating, paperhanging, graining, marbling, pictorial and sign painting. Catalog free, Chicago Painting School, 106 West Lake Street, Chicago.

CLAIM Adjusting. Excellent pay. Investigate tragic accidents, fires; outwit fraudulent claimants. Burns School. 311 Morewood. Pittsburgh. Penna.

Morewood, Pittsburgh, Penns,
MASSAGE, Hydrotherapy, dietetics,
drugless therapeutics, chiropody, taught
by mail, Evans Correspondence School,
Montgomery, Ala,
SECRET Investigation, Experience unnecessary, Detective particulars free,
George Wagner, M-2640 Broadway, N. Y.

CARTOONING, COMMERCIAL ART, SHOWCARD WRITING, SIGN PAINTING

ART Magazine including directory art books—free! Send 10c postage. Art Head-quarters. Doty Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

nuarters. Doty Street, Madison, Wisconsin.

CHALK Talks, Laugh producing program, \$1.00. Catalog 10c, Balda, the Cartonist, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

CHALK Talks that really talk. Plans, patter, \$1.00 complete, Willis, 209 Wilda Bullding, Denver, Colorado.

TEST Your cartooning ability. Send dime for big test picture chart, full details of outstandingly successful simplified method. Landon School, 199-0 National Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio.

CARTOONING Course:—30 illustrated

CARTOONING Course:—30 illustrated lessons, over 500 sketches, drawing paper, pens and pencils, \$1.00 complete postpaid. Mentes Studio, Box 985, Pasadena, Calif.

CARTOONING, Sketching, etc. 46 lessons, 600 illustrations, including drawing paper, pens, pencils, \$1.00 complete. Fraba Service, Cashton, Wisconsin.

PEN And ink drawings. Let us draw your advertising and catalogue illustra-tions, from photos, copies or objects. Best work and fair prices, Heraldic Studios, 1914P Oakdale Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

AMATEUR Cartoonists. Earn cash at home, copying advertising cartoons. Ad-Service, Argyle. Wis.

ADVERTISING AGENCIES, LETTER WRITERS, FOR ADVERTISERS

LEARN Advertising at home. Easy practical plan, No text books. Common school education sufficient. Interesting booklet and requirements free, Page-Dayls School of Advertising, 3601 Michigan Avenue, Dept. 343B. Chicago.

INCH Display advertisement 30 magazines, year \$24. Wood's Popular Services, Atlantic City, (N. J.)

40 WORDS, 55 Magazines, \$2.00. Bagley Agency, Box 2522, Portland, Oregon.

ADVERTISE: 24 Words, 149 newspapers \$6.50, Lists free, Advertising Bureau, 4515-C Cottage Grove, Chicago.

26 WORDS, 169 Pulling magazines, \$5.00, inch \$7.50, Piersimone's, 1231 Spofford, New York,

SIGNS, Cloth banners, your copy, 3 col-ors illustrated. Low prices, Specialty Shop, Centreville, Alabama.

REACH 2.000,000 Readers with inch ad \$7.00; 24 word ad to 5.000,000 Sunday newspaper readers \$13, Ratebook Ircs. Chicago Union Agency, 20-PR West Jackson, Chicago.

GURRENT Lists opportunity seekers— thousand. Darnell Service, Jackson, Tennessee.

ADVERTISING Placed all magazines, newspapers, radio. Lowest rates. Pree service. 54 page rate book free. Baker Advertising Agency, A-189 West Madison, Chicago. Successors to Ankrum. Established 28 years.

FREE—New Advertisers Rate Guide, 44 pages. Includes everything. Lowest rates. E. H. Brown Advertising Agency, 146 S. Dearborn, Chicago.

BUSINESS SERVICE

ATTENTION Mail dealers! Original customer and agents letters \$4.00 per 1000. 15 day rentals, from the owners, and not letter brokers. Bigger sales await you at very low cost. Guaranteed fresh, legitimate. Investigate at once. Write today! Crown Mail Order Co., 164-PM Monroe St., New York City. New York City.

PERSONAL And business mail received and reforwarded. \$2.00 monthly. Dunn Mail System, 216 West 69th Street. New York, N. Y. Box 42.

HONOLULU, Hawaii, mail address and reforwarding service. Enclose stamp. Hawaii Mailing Service, Box 2017.

NOW—Only 2c daily pays for New York office under your own name. Co-operative Offices, 126 Lexington Avenue, New York.

WASHINGTON, D. C., mail address and reforwarding service. Hawkins Mail Service. 908 Fourteenth.

CHICAGO (Downtown) mail address \$1 monthly. Your mail reforwarded daily. General Business, 56 West Washington; (established 1919.)

RUBBER STAMPS AND OFFICE SUPPLIES

CUSHIONED, 3 Lines 35c. Federich Co., ox 412-B. East Pittsburgh, Penna.

SUPERIOR. Indexed, cushioned. Two lines, 25c; three 35c; four 50c. Slocum, 814 Bradley, Peorla, Illinois.

KNOB Handle, cushioned. 2 lines 25c, 2-35c, Stamp Works, Centerport, N. Y.

CUSHIONED Indexed 3 lines 35c, Pads 25c, Stamp Works, Box 402, Youngstown,

TYPEWRITERS, DUPLICATORS, OFFICE DEVICES

STENCILS \$2.00. Duplicating ink \$1,00. Ribbon Ink Co., Cicero, Ill.

TYPEWRITERS, Adder, mimeograph, multigraph, addressograph. Send for free lists of machines that will help you at half price, Pruitt, 28 Pruitt Bidg., Chicago

REMINGTON Portables, \$22.50. Taylor ngineering Company, 152 East 196th

Engineering Comp Street, New York.

INCREASE Business now. "Excellograph" Rotary Stencil Printer reprints thousands everything you typewrite, handwrite, draw or trace. Colors, \$19.75 to 544. Terms. Illustrated literature free to business or professional men, Pittsburgh Typewriter Supply, Department K-2, Pittsburgh Penne.

PRINTING, MULTIGRAPHING, MIMEO-GRAPHING, GUMMED LABELS

COMBINATION Offer. 250 letterheads, 250 envelopes, 250 statements, \$2.85 post-paid. Satisfaction guaranteed. Skinner Printing, West Brownsville, Penna.

500 LETTERHEADS, Envelopes, statements, billheads \$1,00. Standard Press, 2719 Third Ave., New York City.

MIMEOGRAPH Steneils, any size, \$1.95 outre (24). Quality ink \$1.19 pound. Money back guarantee. Sterling Co., 333 No. Michigan, Chicago.

SKETCH Of home on stationery. Samples 6c. Brown's, 1437 Rugby, Schenectady.
50 SHEETS, 25 Envelopes 25c. Prepaid.

George, West Burke, Vermont,
MULTIGRAPHING—500 Letters \$1.70
(20 lines), Parent Multigraphers, Ashland, Virginia.

LETTERHEADS, Envelopes, 125 each, \$1.00. Hagerman, So. 5th, Quincy, Ill.
\$1.00 POSTPAID—125 8\(\frac{1}{2}\text{x11}\) Twenty pound bond letterheads and 125 6\(\frac{3}{4}\) envelopes. Benneville, 907 West Roosevelt, Philadelphia.

1000 BUSINESS Cards \$1.00, postpaid. Other bargains. Eaton Press, Gardner, Kansas

6x8 CIRCULARS—2,500, \$3,49; 5,000, \$5.78, 50% deposit. Record Press, Lancaster, Kv.

EXTRA Special! 500 Hammermill state-ments, envelopes, letterheads, \$1.95 post-paid. Wood. Bedford. Penna.

MIMEOGRAPHING. Illustrated letters, circulars. Samples, Bur-Wil, 24 Louisa,

Binghamton, N. Y.

3,000 BUSINESS Cards for \$2,00. Man-ness, 5019 Keyser, Philadelphia. Penna.

500 MIMEOGRAPHED Letters (8½x11) 15. Multigraphing Prices, samples \$2.15. Multigraphing. Prices, samples mailed. Multitype, 487 Broadway, N. Y.

BUSINESS Cards printed. \$2.00 thou-and, postpaid. Lewis-Print. Bushkill, Pennsylvania.

HARVEY Labels, Berea, Ohio. Bet label values. Interesting samples free.

PRINT Anything reasonable, Samples ee. Hamilton Press, 4341 P. Meade.

250 LETTERHEADS, Envelopes, Fine colored bonds and inks, \$1.00. Samples, Becker, Box 183, Altoona, Penna.

Becker, Box 183, Attoona, Penna.

BANK, Office, factory and mine forms at wholesale prices. Southeastern Press, Inc., Daleville, Virginia.

EVERYTHING Printed, wholesale prices. Stationery, catalogs, booklets, newspapers, labels, cards, Prompt service, postpaid, Samples, Wholesale Printing Co., 318-G East McDaniel, Springfield, Missouri.

OUALITY Business, cards, 1 000, \$1

East McDaniel, Springfield, Missouri,
QUALITY Business cards, 1.000, \$1,
Samples. Pilot, Box 22, Tulsa, Okla.

100 MATCH Books printed name, address, \$1.00. Sanderson's, Ottawa. Ill.

STANDARD Business stationery, 150
sheets and 150 envelopes \$1.00 prepaid.
E. B. Briok, Printing Service, 1130 Holmes
Ave. Menominee, Mich.

HAMMERMILL Letterheads, envelopes, all colors. 30 styles type. Free particulars.
Woodruff's, 217A Lewis, Duluth, Minn.
PRINTING—Send stamp for lowest

PRINTING—Send stamp for lowest rices-samples. Grimson, 6325 Maxwell, prices-samples. Detroit, Mich.

BETTER Grade printing, free trade illustrations. Reasonable, Economic Press, Leonia, N. J.

500 %4x2¼ FOUR Line gummed stickers, 25c. Moritz Printery, Saginaw, Mich.

PRINTING OUTFITS AND SUPPLIES

TYPE In small fonts. Send for circular lowing special \$1.00 handy box fonts. showing special \$1,00 handy box fonts. Neon Type Foundry, 412 First Ave., Pitts-burgh, Penna. burgh.

BARGAIN Presses, type. List 3c. Exchange, D-15, 190 Cook, Meriden, Conn.

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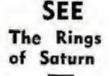
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Read about sensational new 14tube cabinet model at \$29.95. Also other chassis and cabinet models from 5 to 17-tubes . . . up to 5 wave bands . . . including Radio-phonograph-Home combinations and Recorder. Write today! POST CARD

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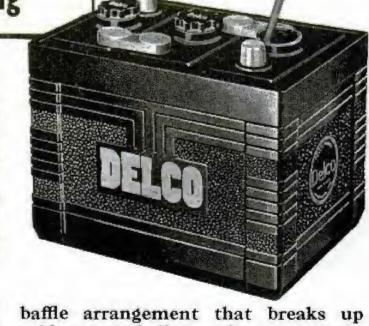
As Easy as ABC

The DELCO ELECTRO-LEVEL

Prevents Over-Filling

Remove the vent plug . . . and automatically the new Delco battery is protected against over-filling. Why is this protection important? When a battery is being charged, pressure is built up inside the cells by the gases which are released. These gases should pass freely through the vent holes; but when the electrolyte level is too high, acid is sprayed out. The acid corrodes the battery carrier and connections.

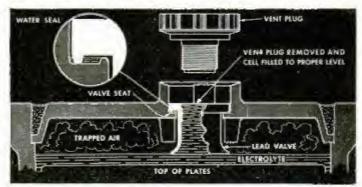
The secret of the automatic protection provided by the Delco Electro-Level is a sliding valve which drops down to form a water-sealed air lock when the proper electrolyte level is reached. When the plug is screwed in place, the valve is lifted to form an efficient



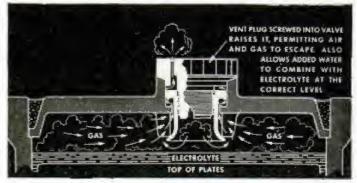
acid spray and allows only gas to escape.

Delco batteries are original equipment on 43 per cent of all new cars sold. For sure starting ability and dependability. replace with a Delco battery.

HERE'S HOW THE NEW ELECTRO-LEVEL WORKS



Vent plug removed for filling-valve forms air lock when electrolyte reaches proper level. Notice particularly the water seal formed when the edge of the valve drops into the layer of water retained in the ridge around the valve seat. This layer of water is replenished by condensation, eliminating any possibility of a leak in the air lock when the lead valve is in position for filling.



Vent plug screwed in-valve is raised to permit escape of trapped air and gases from the cell through the passage and the vent hole in the plug. Notice here the efficient baffle arrangement through which the gases must pass. This condenses moisture and breaks up the acid spray which might otherwise escape to damage the battery carrier and connections to the battery.



World's Largest Manufacturer of Automotive Electrical Equipment

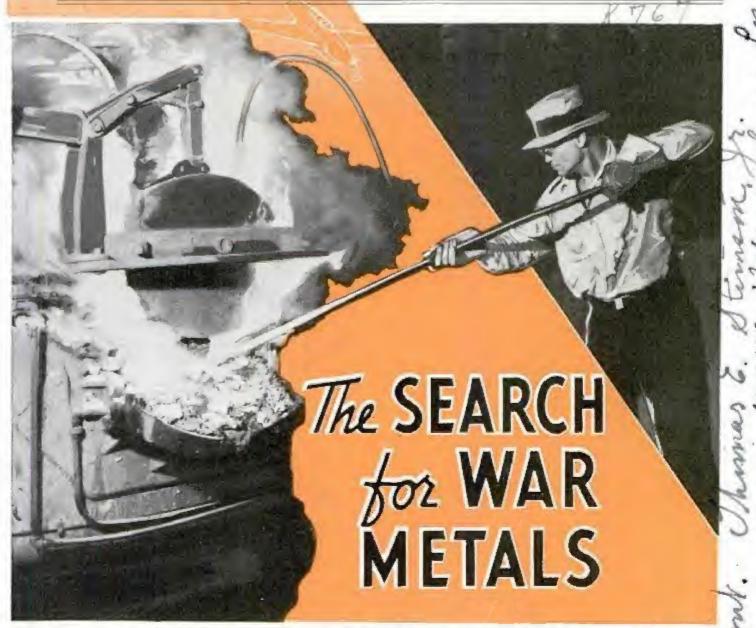
Popular Mechanics Magazine

WRITTEN SO YOU CAN UNDERSTAND IT

Vol. 74

OCTOBER, 1940

No. 4



Skimming slag and impurities from molten steel in electric furnace. Modern mining and refining methods are helping to make the United States more nearly self sufficient

PROWLING through abandoned mines and sometimes building their own roads to reach inaccessible areas, 200 engineers of the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the Geological Survey are investigating our supplies of vital minerals.

The United States is the most self-sufficient country on earth yet it normally depends on foreign sources for most of the tin, antimony, nickel, manganese and some of the other materials required by industry. Some can be obtained cheaper abroad than here; in other cases our deposits are

inadequate. If ordinary channels of trade were disrupted the country might be cut off from materials it has to have.

To guard against this possibility the government is spending \$10,000,000 as a starter to buy and store reserves of strategic metals. In addition a four-year search is being made to map out our own resources. Already it has been learned that the country is richer than had been supposed in manganese, chromite, tungsten, mercury, and antimony, minerals essential in peace and absolutely necessary in war.

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Materials on the strategic list include aluminum, antimony, chromium, coconut shell char, manila fiber, mica, nickel, optical glass, quartz crystal, mercury, quinine, rubber, silk, tin, tungsten and wool. Twenty-five other materials are only slightly less important. The United States produces only ten per cent of the antimony, five per cent of the manganese, one per cent of the chromium, and less than one per cent of the nickel and tin it uses.

Most of our manganese now comes from Russia, Africa, and Brazil. Chromium is imported from Africa, Cuba, and the Philippines. Mexico is the principal source of antimony. Nickel comes from Canada. Tin is shipped in from the other side of the Pacific. Except for tin it appears that in case of need sufficient supplies of all these metals can be obtained domestically or at least can be originated on the con-



Circle, ore sample in liquid is compared by color with liquid containing known quantity of metal

new almacieric





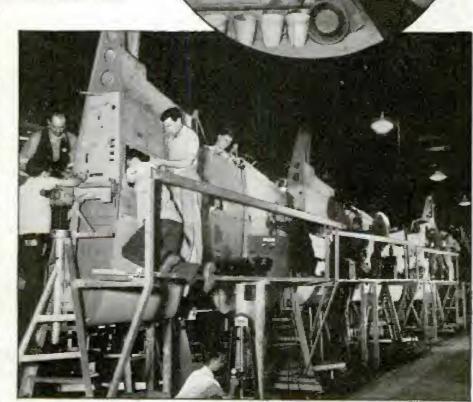
tinent. Placer tin in three New Mexican creeks has been traced to the sources and the lode material is being surveyed.

Strangely enough, all of the so-called war metals, with the exception of mercury, have gone down in price instead of booming as a result of the war in Europe. They are cheaper than they were a year ago. The reason seems to be that during the last decade the mining companies accumulated huge surpluses above the requirements of industry and now that the markets have

become active these stocks are being sold at competitive prices.

During the World War the United States was cut off from its usual sources of potash, nitrates, iodine, and molybdenum, among other materials. In each of these the country is now self sufficient. Potash is being mined from the dry lakes of the southwest, nitrate needs are supplied by nitrogen extracted from the atmosphere, and iodine is now a by-product of petroleum production. Adequate domestic molybdenum resources have been discovered.

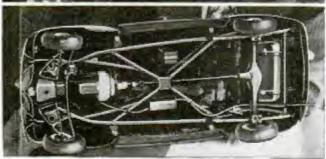
Most people regard Spain as the source of most of the world's mer-(Continued to page 143A)



Top, left, weighing mercury just taken from still. Right, sheet aluminum being shaped at Douglas Aircraft factory. Circle, making fire assay of crushed ores to determine metallic content. Bottom, wing assembly in aircraft plant that uses twenty-five metals and alloys in manufacture

Working Model of 1940 Car Has Adjustable Seats





A South Dakota man built this model, faithful in almost every detail to the original—his own coupe

Nearly all the operating features have been built into a model of his 1940 car by Philip Johnson of Vermillion, S. D. Copied from the original, doors, windows, hood, ventilators, windshield wipers, sun visors, glove compartment door, radio antenna, clutch, brakes, accelerator, engine fan and oil filter are made to operate. Headlamps are of the sealed-beam type, steering mechanism is complete and the small engine is suspended in floating-power mountings. The miniature has individual spiral springs in front, leaf springs at the rear, and wheels have pneumatic tires and hub caps. Its upholstered seats are adjustable.

Growth of Trees Speeded Up by Ray Treatments

A vast speed-up of tree growth, important scientifically as well as for the production of cellulose, has been achieved by the application of ultraviolet and Roentgen rays, the Kaiser Wilhelm Plant Research Institute in Germany reports. Radiation accelerated the development of trees to such an extent that poplars were ready in two years to be cut for the manufacture of cellulose. The yield from irradiated trees was as large as from much older trees grown naturally.

Electric "Brain" Puts Washer through Automatic Routine

With a washing machine that virtually does its own thinking, you can stow a ninepound load of clothes in the door, set the controls to regulate water temperature and number of minutes for the washing, feed it soap and then go out for a walk. The washer is connected with hot and cold water supplies. Solenoids and float valves automatically turn the water on and off, thermostats control its temperature as desired. A time-control knob controls the switch that makes contacts to change the operation of the machine; after washing the clothes for the interval you selected, it automatically gives them a shower rinse, then a slosh rinse, then a third rinse; finally a solenoid shifts gears stepping up the speed of the clothes basket and the garments are spun damp-dry.



This machine washes, triple-rinses and dries clothing automatically under a time-mechanism control

Barge with Eight-Inch Guns Is Floating Fort



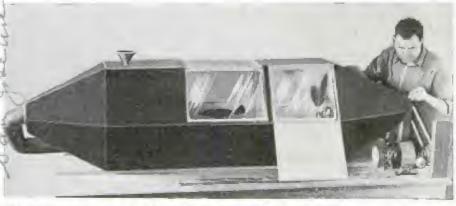
Mounted on this Italian barge are a pair of eight-inch guns and a fire-control tower, useful for training navy gunners, and a formidable weapon when towed into action by another war vessel

Offering a small target for the enemy, an Italian barge carries twin eight-inch guns capable of inflicting heavy damage on hostile shipping in the Mediterranean. The

barge was photographed in the harbor at Genoa by a member of the crew of an American ship. It is useful for gunnery practice as well as real warfare.

Plaster of Paris Shows Air Flow in Wind-Tunnel Tests

Air currents flowing over the surfaces of model airplanes undergoing tests in a wind tunnel are made visible by powdered plaster of paris circulated by a large four-blade fan. Developed at the Junior Recreation Museum in San Francisco, the wind tunnel has glass observation windows fitted in its plywood structure.



Wind tunnel made of plywood has windows for watching performance of model aircraft. The fan blows powdered plaster of paris over the model

Balloon-Tired Roller Skis Offer Summer Training for the Winter Sport



Shi enthusiasts are taking to wheels in summer to heep up training for the winter sport

Balloon-tired skis have been developed to give a skier practice in summer and autumn so he will be in good physical condition for the sport when snow comes. The wheels, ten inches in diameter, are mounted on stiff footboards sixteen inches long. Techniques required in stopping and turning are similar to those used in the snow with regular skis.

(ISend stamped, addressed envelope to our Bureau of Information for name of maker of any device described in this magazine.

OCTOBER, 1940

Postas.

Hit Target or Get a Shower on Roller Coaster



The lancer below had a good eye for the target and escaped a ducking. The fellow at the left was not so luchy; his spear missed the hole, tripped the target and down came a hundred gallons of water. Still, it isn't hard to take on a hot day at a carnival!

There are gallons of fun for the spectators on the barrel-sticking roller coaster ride, whether the passengers like it or not. This carnival amusement consists of an abbreviated roller coaster on which two players ride down the track and try to thrust a lance through the hole in an overhead target as they hit the bottom of the slope. If they hit the hole, all's well. But if the spear strikes the target instead, it trips a barrel and down comes a hundred-gallon cold shower.



Snapping Disk Stops Generator to Prevent Overheating

Damage to the armature of an automobile generator, due to excess heating, is



prevented by a dish-shaped bimetallic disk that interrupts the charging process a few degrees below the danger point. Mounted on the generator shaft, the patented disk remains inoperative in its original position, but as soon as it reaches a predetermined temperature it snaps into reverse shape so it contacts the segments of the commutator, which causes the charging to stop. When the disk has cooled about fifteen degrees it snaps back again.

POPULAR MECHANICS

Model Ocean Liner "Torpedoed" for Movies

When a cruiser or an ocean liner is torpedoed at sea, it's rare to find a movie camera posted to film the disaster; so the movies do their own torpedoing. A European government sponsored a war film for which a huge model of an ocean liner was built just to be blown up. It was constructed in two parts; first the lower hull, in which explosive was planted for the fake torpedoing, then the superstructure, done in great detail. The hull was set affoat from a seashore, the upper section was added, then as cameras ground the ship was blown up with extreme realism.

Synthetic Coveralls Worn as Protection for Worker

Workmen in industries using skin-irritating chemicals may soon be protected by clothing, hoods and gloves of new synthetic materials worn over their regular garments, if designs produced by United States Public Health Service scientists are put into use. Similar to transparent capes worn by women on rainy days, the proposed costumes will minimize the danger of occupational skin irritants suffered by workers employed in many kinds of manufacturing, and also protect their clothing. Of the fabrics and films tested, Pliofilm, Vinylite and Koroseal have been found most suitable for the purpose. Such garments would be light in weight and comfortable to wear.

Lightweight Plane Armor Made of Rubber and Steel

DEU WILL

Development of an armor plate of rubber and steel for airplanes was announced recently after completion of tests indicating it was equal in bullet resistance to a standard armor plate weighing twenty per cent more. The new plate makes use of a secret rubber compound.









From top to bottom: the superstructure assembled on beach; the hull launched off shore; the completed liner, and the explosion simulating a torpedo attack for a war movie

OCTOBER, 1940

States Rubbergo



RIDING the



Top, lowering \$700 motor into 225class hydroplane hull. Circle, Jock Cooper, a 225-class record holder, in outboard. Bottom, bouncing along at fifty-eight miles an hour with only seven inches of hull touching the water

By Thom Cooper Outboard Racing Driver

THERE goes the five-minute gun, so slip on your life jacket and crash helmet you're going to make your bow as an outboard racing driver.

Got your motor hooked up? Give those clamps fastening it to the hull an extra twist so the power plant will be good and tight. Spark plugs okay? This is Florida, remember, you'd better coat them with

castor oil to prevent the salt spray from causing short circuits.

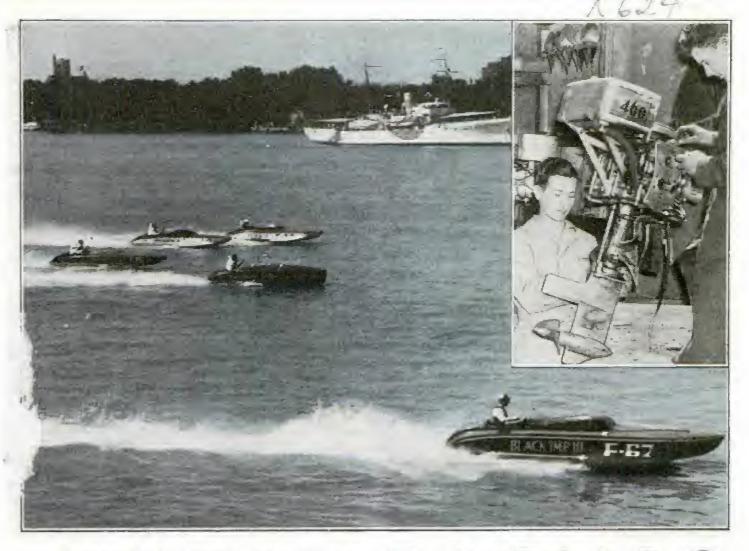
Now pour in the fuel, give your motor a twirl and as soon as you get the boat on a plane, reset the spark and needle valve for greatest speed. Take your time in jockeying into position for the running start.

Bang!

o Sain Cooper

That's the one-minute gun, the time

POPULAR MECHANICS



WATER BRONCS

clock's starting and the white flag's going up. Pick your course but be sure you approach the starting line at the right angle or you'll be disqualified. And above all, don't jump the gun unless you want to be ruled out.

Now, go ahead—gun it! Bang!

A beautiful start—with the throttle wide open you crossed the starting line on the nose, just as the clock hand was straight up and the flag fell. But another driver's timing was equally perfect, which means you're going to have a battle. Try and capture the inside position before he does-a four or five-yard advantage will be gained by the time the first buoy is rounded if you do.

You're bouncing along

at fifty-eight miles an hour with not more than twenty inches of the seven-foot hull touching the water. Something catches in the back of your throat. A super-exhilaration grips you. The vibration is terrific and the bottom of the boat spanks you as you bob along. That wide leather belt you



Top, field of 225-hydroplanes, the popular inboard class, burning up the course. Inset, the author adjusting Class F motor in his traveling "garage." Bottom, Frank Vincent off to a good start in Class C race



Above, Jack Cooper and Tommy Chatfield battling in regatta. Left, construction of hull calls for specialized skill of racing-boat builder. Below, virtually all leading race drivers have trailers with room for several hulls and a compartment for tools, motors and parts

with a jolt he'll remember despite his helmet and life preserver.

Profiting from his mistake, you slow down for the next buoy, just enough to snake around it handily. Your chief rival noses up close and the rule book says you've got to give him room. Okay, give him all he wants—just so he stays on the outside. Hang on to the inside position and don't let him bluff you.

The going gets tougher as the race wears on, particularly after you've succeeded in

lapping the field. A number of the boats will be bunched together and as you head for an open spot it closes, leaving no alternative but to duck through the rooster tails and sprays to an outside lane. However, at the turn, you make up for lost ground by turning sharply in the comparatively smooth water and cutting diagonally across the course to the inside.

And so into the home stretch you and your rival thunder. The crowd tenses for a photo finish. Your competitor starts to forge ahead of you but you manage to squeeze an extra ounce or two of speed from your motor that enables you to slip across the finish line the winner.



are wearing helps counteract the vibration.

You take a quick look over the field and just in time to catch a glimpse of a spectacular bit of hell diving. A boat, apparently taking the first turn too sharply, skids over on her side. The driver is thrown clear, though, but hits the water That's only the first heat, there's another, and possibly a third, still to be run. Before the second leg of the competition starts, the gas tank must be refilled, the spark plugs changed, and minor repairs made on the motor. If your propeller was damaged by driftwood you will want to replace it—or maybe a smaller one, you feel, would give you greater speed, and the substitution is made before the race is called.

Outboards differ in size and power and the average big-time driver does not confine himself to one division but tackles as many of the seven recognized classes as his constitution and bank balance can accommodate. When he has tucked his Class E motor and hull into his trailer he girds himself for a romp with the A's or B's, or the Class X, a new field of competition in which there are no restrictions as to motor size.

Regattas spot the calendar from mid-May to September and there are a dozen or so worth-while ones on the winter circuits. Between times, a driver can occupy himself with the suicidal Albany-to-New York on the Hudson, the Canadian meets, and trying for speed marks.

In going after a record, the water's got to be right. A still surface is not conducive to speed because there's skin friction between the water and the bottom of the boat, which has a tendency to slow it up just as rough water does. A gently rippling surface is best. That's the way the water was during one heat of a race at Lakeland, Florida, a few months back, and I had little difficulty in establishing a new competitive record of 45.135 miles per hour for five-mile distance in Class A.

With each passing season the pace grows swifter and just where the record breaking will stop under present boat and motor designs is hard to guess. In Class F, speeds up to eighty miles an hour under non-competitive conditions are likely and when drivers in the unlimited section acquaint themselves with the whims of their giant motors they're apt to be hovering around the 100-mile-an-hour mark.

The outboard's power is applied directly from the piston to the propeller, making the loss in efficiency very small. A propeller whirls at from 6,000 to 7,000 revolutions per minute and inasmuch as it's always immersed these revolutions per min-

(Continued to page 141A)



Winding specifications and diagrams are included with parts above for building electric motor at home

Kits for assembling various types of small electric motors in the home workshop or for classroom instruction are now available. All the necessary parts for building a useful one-fourth or one-third horsepower motor are supplied except the wire, and this can be obtained, too, at an additional cost.

Automatic Pencil That Multiplies Will Help with Home Work

Multiplication problems are simple with a new pencil. It has a movable band, which is turned until the two numbers to be multiplied are matched. Then the product is read through a hole in the band.



Movable band on pencil is a multiplication table

Wes Products or

'Reverse Blast' Anchors New Road in Swamp

Top, exploding dynamite blows swamp muck from beneath fill; in center, the vanishing cream. To placing dynamite. Below, air view of a semi-cloverleaf on the new Queen make the cream—and any Elizabeth Way near Burlington, Ont., between Toronto and Fort Eric make the cream—and any

New methods of road construction proved both quick and effective where swamp or "muskeg" was encountered in completing certain stretches of Canada's ultra-modern four-lane express highway, the Queen Elizabeth Way. By old methods, months would have been required before the road settled sufficiently to be surfaced, but engineering ingenuity reduced the time to minutes. A layer of fill, equal in depth to the depth of the muskeg, was placed on top of the swampy ground, Engineers then placed charges of dynamite, which exploded in such a manner as to blow the muskeg out from under the road and allow the fill to settle down to solid ground, where it remains in place held by pressure of the muskeg from either side. They described the method as a reverse blast. Completed, this section of the highway provides a ninety-one-mile stretch with only twenty-three curves, none of which exceeds two degrees.

Vanishing Cream Protects Against Poison Ivy

Vanishing cream that gives protection against poison ivy, developed by scientists of the United States Public Health Service and the National Institute of Health, is made by mixing either sodium perborate or potassium periodate with the vanishing cream. To make the cream—and any

Washington, 4.C.

Lony. Ideal Foster

druggist can do it-ten per cent sodium perborate is used, or two per cent potassium periodate. Either substance should be ground into powder, because in crystal form it will not mix well with the cream. The vanishing cream is prepared first and then the chemical added, else the result will be unsatisfactory. To avoid deterioration, a fresh batch should be made at least once in two weeks. Tests show that the cream protects against the leaves and stems of the plant, and also against the poison ivy extract which is many times as powerful as any poison ivy leaf. It is rubbed over the face, hands, arms and other parts of the body likely to come in contact with the plant.

Cartridge Starter for Plane Is Fixed on Engine Mount

Set up right on the engine mount, a cartridge starter for airplane motors gives sure results in "turning over" the engine. Formerly the cartridge arrangement



Inserting cartridge in the starter, which is installed right on the engine mount

was installed in the cabin of the plane, and engineers say that occasional misfires in that location are obviated by putting the starter-unit on the engine mount itself.

so where.

Phonograph with a Dual Pickup Plays Two Types of Records



Notice the viscous disk on the stylus mount. This eliminates any high-frequency resonance due to material of the record

Both vertical and lateral "cut" records can be played with a new phonograph provided with a universal pickup. A flip of the switch converts the reproducer for either type of cut without lifting the stylus from the grooves of the record. On the stylus support is mounted a circular vane of viscous material which damps out high-frequency resonance caused by elastic properties of the record material,

Adjustable Tool Marks Products Electrically and in Color

Many colors, including gold, silver, blue, red and orange, are stamped quickly on various materials with a machine equipped with electric heat control. Designed originally to mark products up to three-fourths inch thick, the machine can now stamp four-



inch articles by using a new adjustable feature. As many as twenty-five pieces can be stamped by hand per minute, depending upon the operator and the material, and excellent results are claimed in stamping fiber, wood, leather, celluloid, paper, plastics and compressed materials. The machine is furnished either with dies, interchangeable type or a numbering head,

OCTOBER, 1940

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FLYING

many hours of flying ambulance experience to her credit and be able to deal with the situation quickly.

Each nurse carries a kit for emergency disaster relief and the care of patients during flight. Besides oxygen masks and tanks, the kits contain many pieces of special apparatus. One of these is an "information bomb." The purpose of this packet is to provide persons stranded in isolated districts with a means of signaling their needs to the plane overhead. The package contains strips of white cloth with which to form letters on the ground, giving information according to a code contained in the packet.

A letter "A" laid out on the ground means "First aid kits only needed." A letter "H" signifies "Doctors and nurses needed urgently," while "T" means "Water

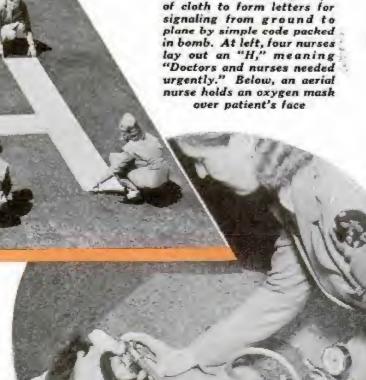
> Top, dropping an "information bomb" containing strips

town in the desert comes an emergency call to the metropolitan airport. A woman has been critically injured, and she must be rushed by plane to the city hospital.

The airport officials relay the message to the local office of the Aerial Nurse Corps of America. A quick check of the registered nurses locates a girl available, and in a few minutes she reports at the field with her special kit.

These nurses of the sky, specially trained for aerial emergency duties, have just formed a national organization to fill the need for attendants for flying ambulances and for disaster service.

Specially constructed air ambulances are few, so the Aerial Nurse must adapt the ship to the patient and sickness for which she must care. A heart case, for instance, usually requires that a patient sit up. Administration of oxygen may be necessary. If the patient must lie flat, the Aerial Nurse must make sure there is room for the stretcher. Can the seats be removed? Is the door narrow? The nurse must have



NURSES

At right, a cabin plane rearranged for emergency umbulance service, with an aerial nurse attending patient. Below, nurses check contents of kits, which contain medical supplies for the care of a patient while flying, or for the injured in a disaster area. Bottom, aerial nurses learn the proper method of lifting stretcher through plane door with least discomfort to patient







needed." The code, although extremely simple, allows people on the ground to send messages of almost any type.

Another important item in the Aerial Nurse's kit is restraining straps, in case mental disease or sudden panic should cause the patient to attack nurse or pilot.

Many of the Aerial Nurses are licensed radio operators, able to take over communications, to give vital reports while a plane is in flight. Plans are now under way to organize a group of women pilots who will stand ready to fly planes of mercy and maintain a courier service in times of disaster.

Creation of the Aerial
Nurse Corps was the idea
of Lauretta M. Schimmoler, who is herself a
pilot, having studied airplane manufacturing at
the Lockheed plant,
worked for the weather
bureau, flown her own
plane for years, built and
managed an airport.

Push-Pull Levers Propel New Liner's Lifeboats

Fourteen of the lifeboats on the new U. S. liner "America" are propelled by manually operated push-pull levers instead of the conventional oars or motor.

Thus passengers unskilled at handling oars can help drive the boat; any number of crew or passengers from one to sixteen can handle the levers, and they need not work

in unison. A specially designed propeller of one-third the normal weight is required, and it is made of an aluminum alloy highly resistant to salt-water corrosion. The boat has a top speed of six miles an hour, sufficient to carry its passengers away from immediate danger. Afterward the boat can be towed by the power-driven lifeboats.

At left, one of the "America's" motorless propeller-driven lifeboats on a test run. Below, the hand levers that turn the screw



Shrinkless Fabric for Curtains Needs No Stretching

Curtains made of specially processed fabric that will not shrink more than a negligible amount will save housewives much of the usual curtain fuss and work. After they are cleaned the new-type curtains can be hung without stretching, starching, re-hemming or ironing.

You Dial an 'Information Disc' for Aircraft Engine Data

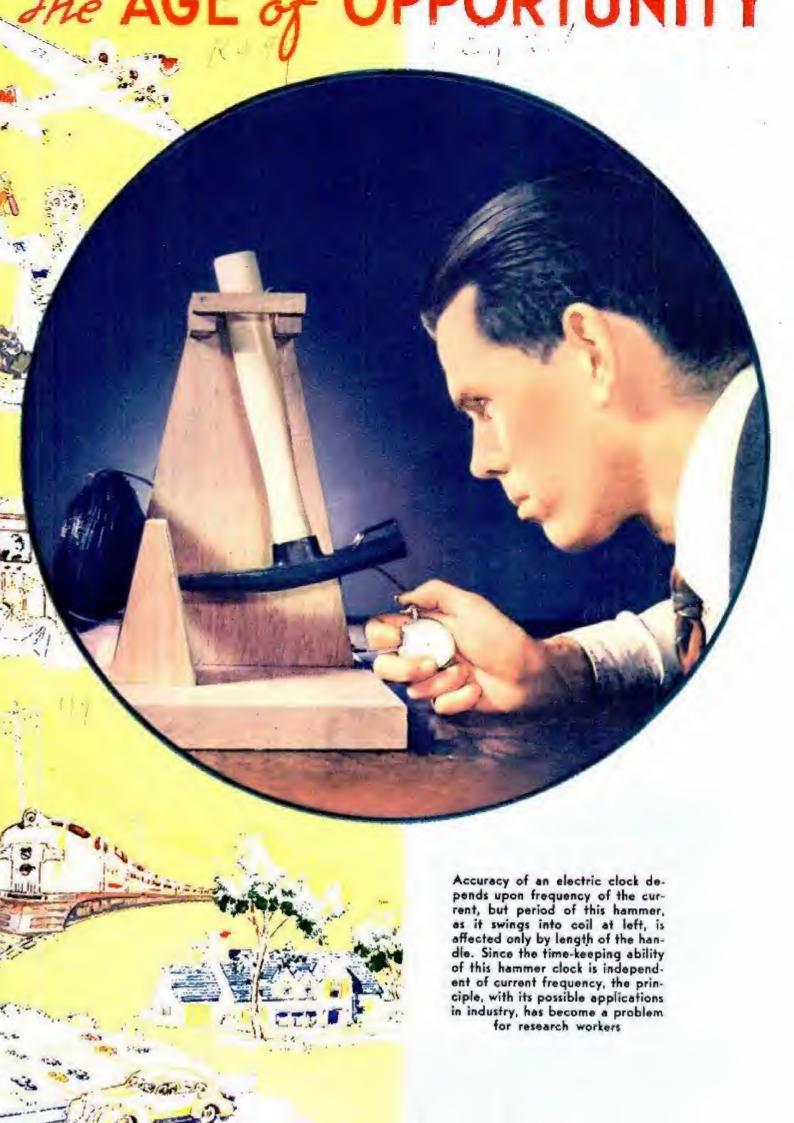


Openings on dial show mechanical data on envines

Accurate data on the timing and setting of airplane engines are available for the mechanic by simply dialing a disc, as he would a telephone. It covers 150 models of American-made engines. When the dial is turned so the base of the triangle rests at the space indicating the desired engine, various "windows" show at a glance the figures for spark timing, valve tappet adjustments for both operating and timing, correct setting for valve timing, as well as both intake and exhaust opening and closing for that particular engine.

(A Japanese inventor recently demonstrated a carburetor which permits the substitution of soybean oil for gasoline in ordinary gasoline engines.

POPULAR MECHANICS





By C. F. Kettering
Vice President in Charge of Research
General Motors Corporation

HIS world we live in today is not done—is, instead, only begun—and the builders of tomorrow's bright new world will have a host of advantages when they come to grips with the questions it will bring.

Young America is coming into a world that is only begun, a world that despite the accumulated toil of centuries, still admits want, disease, hardship. When today's young men and their sons and grandsons of tomorrow have finished with it, we'll be a little nearer the kind of world we ought to have.

When they tell us in research that a thing can't be done, that's our cue to go ahead and do it. We don't

know how we're going to do it. We don't know what we'll need or what we'll use to do it. That isn't important. A research laboratory is not a building full of shining equipment—it's a state of mind. If you recognize a challenge when you see one, if you accept it and start to work to answer it, then you're engaged in research whether you like it or not.

We gave a young college graduate of our laboratories a little project pertain-



ing to lubrication and the fundamentals of friction. "Why," this young man com-plained, "must I spend my time rubbing two little blocks of metal together? Don't you think this job is a little below the dignity of a man with my education?" "I'm sorry," I told him, "I didn't know you had an education." "This wouldn't be so bad," he continued, "if it wasn't in all the books.

I never had seen anything like that in the books; so I offered him a substantial reward if he would find the information and bring it to me. When I saw him again two weeks later, he said, "Do you know, there is nothing in the books about this. In school they told me that everything was known about bearings

Optical system used to study air flow around a ball (top). A new device permits spraying of copper, bronze or even steel to build up surface of machine parts (bottom). Here the worker is using metallizing gun

Ten great fields of research, Mr. Kettering says, hold the promise of new jobs and improve-

A modern highway system.

Preventives and cures for man's ills.

Communications, including television. Air conditioning.

Fundamental information in the basic sciences of physics and chemistry.

More knowledge of plant growth. Improved transportation systems.

More efficient modern cities.

Better knowledge of the properties of materials, both natural and synthetic.







Top, full-color photograph of starting line activities in All-American Soap Box Derby at Akron, Ohio. Bottom, Mr. Kettering holding necktie made from milk. Blue cloth near it was made from glass. Fisherman's plug (foreground) is plastics product

and lubrication. This is a more important job than I thought it was."

A degree from the most highly regarded university won't guarantee that you'll invent tomorrow's greatest boon. That degree simply records the fact that you've learned the A, B, C of engineering, if that is what you happened to study. You've learned to read, but not to write, to compose. Nor will a finely equipped laboratory guarantee that you'll be able to "compose" a great invention. But give a man a purpose or a need, give him a pair of hands that have been trained to handle the instruments of a profession and a thinking mind to tackle the problem and direct the manual activity, and your "research" is under way.

For example, thousands of boys throughout the country take part in the Soap Box Derby, which Chevrolet, one of our divisions, co-sponsors with leading newspapers. Most of these youngsters are average boys, just like the kids on your block. Without something like the Derby to provide them with incentive—a purpose—

in incell Les Les Line



they'd probably spend the sum-

mer simply playing.

You see what I mean? When purpose is brought into their lives, when the directive influence of the Derby draws them out of themselves, they immediately become young research engineers, building, creating,

developing.

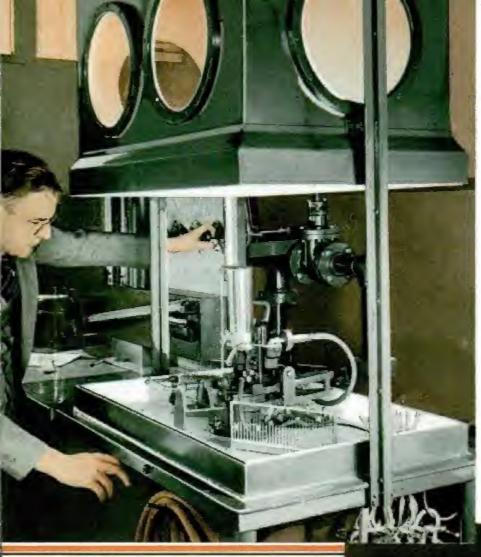
These young fellows are well Sure, they need a started. push, a stimulus, because it's a softer world they live in today. And the Derby is doing a great service because it gives them something to "crystallize" around. Its directive interest brings out their mental alertness and requires finger technique. These boys can't sit around a carpenter shop and "absorb" their Derby car. They can't dream up a racer. They have to sit down and plan it out, then build it. You must think from the inside out; not from the outside in.

Progress doesn't come in leaps, these boys discover. It's a slow, weary, laborious process. It's the same with research, People come to me and Photos: Courtesy Chevrolet Motor Division

Above, full-color view of chart showing how light from heated mixture is sent through prism and broken into a "rainbow," revealing chemical elements present. Below, two "engineers of the future" working on plans for racing car to be entered in the Soap Box Derby







The young people of today stand on the threshold of a world with opportunities multiplied a thousandfold over the opportunities that existed only two or three decades ago. What they don't realize, apparently, is that the threshold today is immeasurably higher than it was then. Because progress has continued. our general level of information is higher today than ten years ago-than yesterday, for that matter. So each young man who completes his school work and starts looking for a job has a better chance than his dad did. It's elementary. The young fellow knows more than his dad didthe world is doing more in scores of entirely new fields. Naturally, he'll find his place in the picture quicker.

The issue of lack of opportunity is timeless, each generation contending that it has emerged into a world where nothing re-

say, "Mr. Kettering, research must be the most thrilling sort of work in the world. It's so dramatic!"

"Yes," I answer. "Research is about as thrilling and dramatic as a fly stuck on a piece of fly-paper in a farmer's kitchen. You've watched a fly struggle to get loose. The minute he gets one foot free, another is stuck. Well, that's the way we are. We find each problem so tangled up with a score more that we simply have to plug away at all angles of a thing until eventually we lick it."

The reason people are prone to regard progress as over and done, is because man loves a show. He wants a celebration, excitement, thrills. Research just isn't done that way.

Why, every day spells progress. But since we don't keep a brass band in the laboratory to strike up a fanfare at the close of each day's work, people think we aren't getting along.



Top, testing carburetor in Chevrolet laboratory. The hood, level with operator's head, is lowered to seal in the carburetor, and air is exhausted from chamber before terting. Below, passing light from a material through prism to produce spectrum that reveals elements present and measures amount of each element

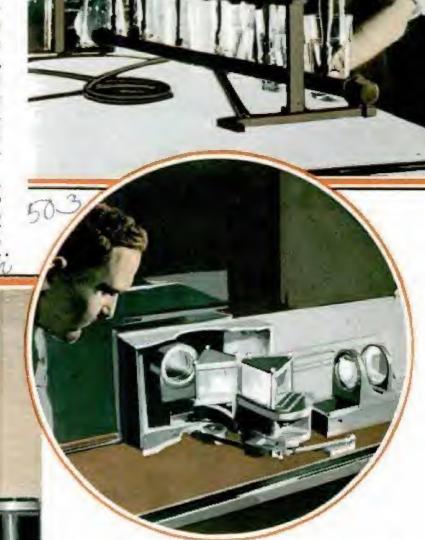
mains to be done. Several generations before I devised the self-starter for the motor car, a Patent Office official resigned, giving as his reason the fact that there was no room for further invention, consequently there would be no need for patents.

Not so long ago I was awarded an honorary degree by one of our old eastern colleges. I went east for the commencement exercises. The alumni met in ten, twenty-five, and fifty-year groups, and I happened to be thrown with the twenty-five-year group when this thing

happened:

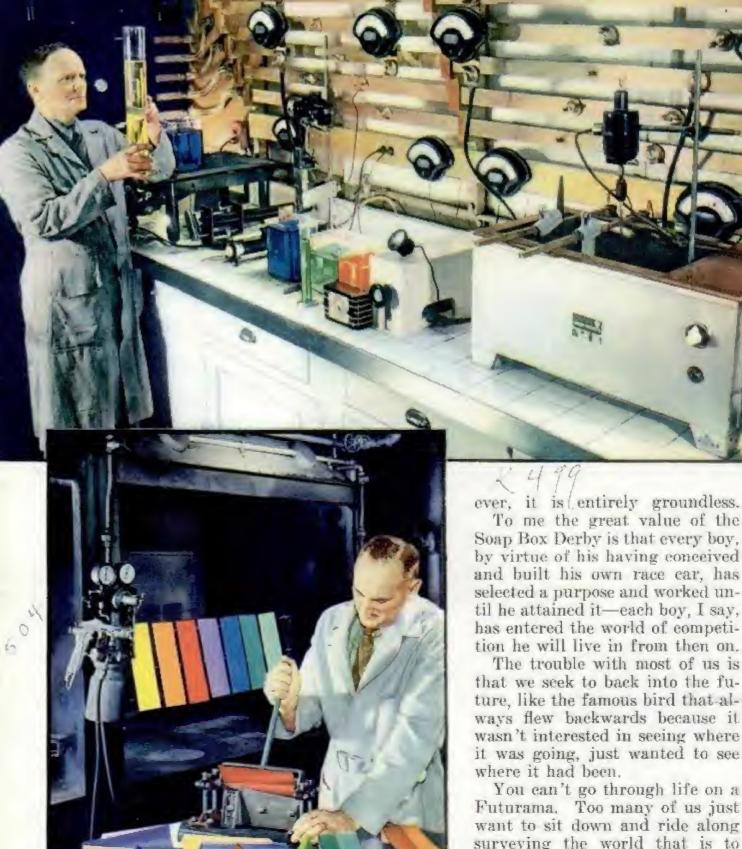
A well-dressed, successful-looking man stood up to address the twenty-five-year alumni. In his hand he held a letter, yellowed with the years. "I wrote this letter to my father on graduation day," he said, "and in it I bewailed my lot for having graduated into a world that held forth so little opportu-

Top, working in electroplating laboratory. Circle, optical system of spectrograph which aids research men in analyzing metals, fuels, oils and other mixtures. "Below, carburetor in sealed tank is subjected to speed range test with fuel and fair measured accurately."



nity." When the speaker finished, the president of the college arose. He had a thick book in his hand. To the speaker he said, "In this book we have collected letters from our students over a period of 150 years. Each letter, in each succeeding year, laments the passing of opportunity, the dire plight of the student who was thrown out into such a drear world. I should like to add your letter to our collection."

So there you are. This doubt and uncertainty is ageless. And today, more than



Top, typical laboratory scene in which research man is inspecting a fluid in large tube. Below, paint and enamel test panels being subjected to bending action of a special tool. It is important that paints and enamels have no tendency to separate from sheets of metal

tion he will live in from then on. The trouble with most of us is that we seek to back into the future, like the famous bird that-always flew backwards because it wasn't interested in seeing where it was going, just wanted to see

You can't go through life on a Futurama. Too many of us just want to sit down and ride along surveying the world that is to come. Well, if many of us do that, the sights we'll see will still be those of the world of today.

Right here and now new industries are being created. I don't know what they are and neither do you. I doubt very much if any man was ever conscious of creating an industry when he set about his work. Certainly I know that Oersted didn't know he was ereating an industry when he held

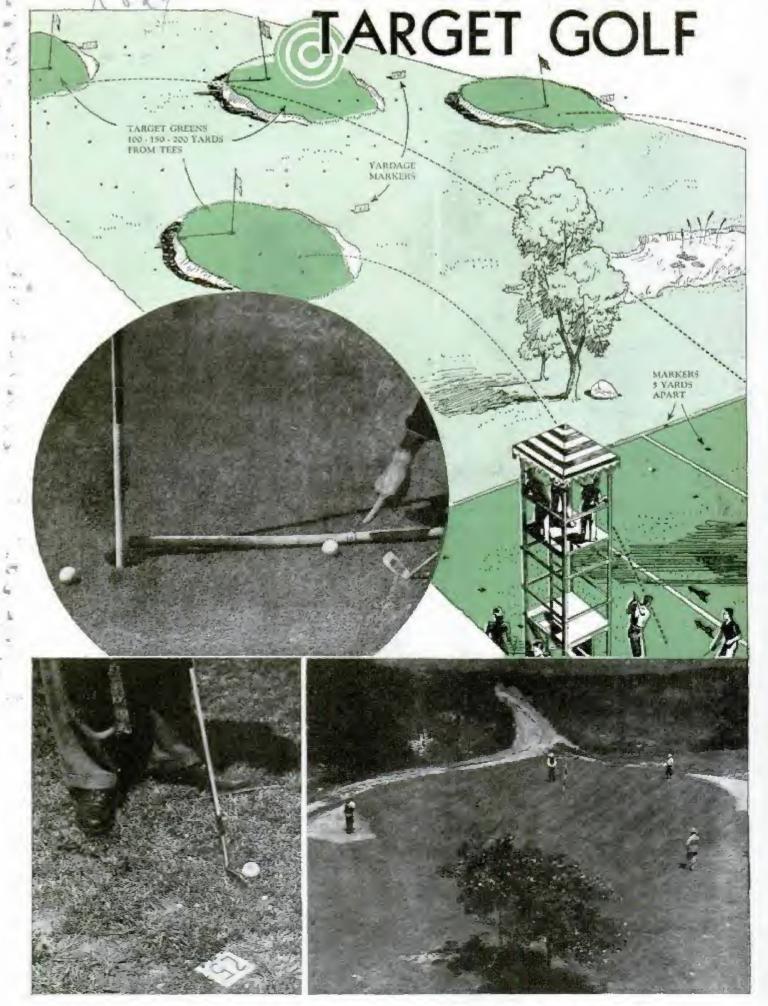
(Continued to page 128A)

Steel 'Tent' and Concrete 'Igloo' Resist Bombs



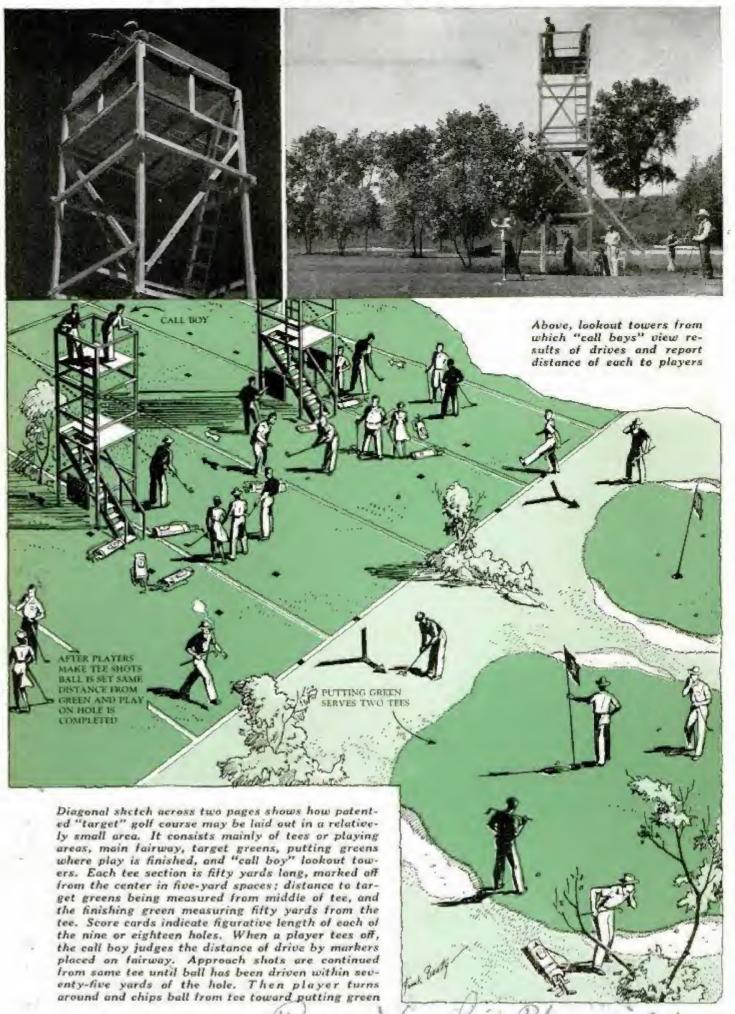
OCTOBER, 1940

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Golf practice takes on the dignity of a real game at a new course in Chicago, where much walking is eliminated since all approach shots are made from same tee, and player does not follow his ball down the fairway. About half the usual time is needed for a game. Photo in circle, measuring a putt; bottom, left, making chip shot from twenty-five-yard marker; right, one of the greens

PLAYED like REAL GAME



OCTOBER, 1940

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Eleven Captive Parachutes Drop from 250-Foot Tower



Eleven parachutes, most of them carrying a pair of thrill seekers, take simultaneous leave from anchorage atop a 250-foot tower at world's fair

Parachutists descended en masse upon New York the other day, but they were jumping for fun rather than sabotage. Eleven parachutes were released at once from the top of the 250-foot steel tower at the world's fair, producing thrills for a score of riders as well as hundreds of fair visitors who watched the spectacle. Last year half a million persons made jumps.

Longer-Lived Engine Bearing Promises Greater Power

Tests of a new type of steel-back, highlead babbitt bearing for automobile engines indicate it will increase engine bearing life by 200 per cent. The bearing, to be introduced soon on Buick cars, was designed to withstand the high-compression ratios, increased power output, high crankshaft speeds and terrific piston pressures of modern automobiles, and automotive engineers say it will result in more miles per gallon of gasoline and greater acceleration.

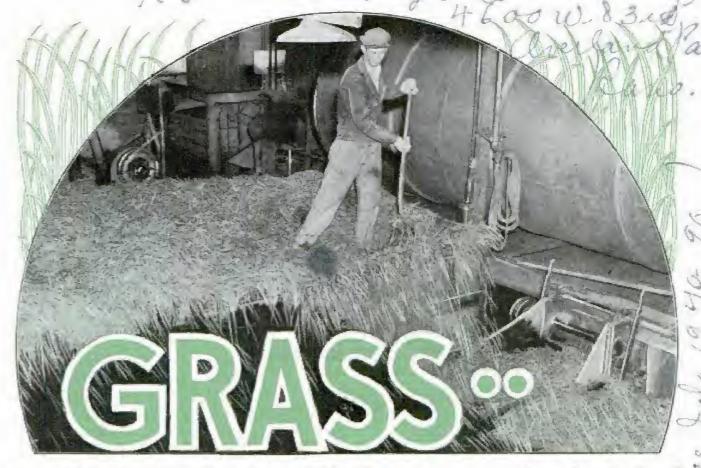
Big Uncut Diamond Weighs Over Five Ounces

Said to be the largest uncut diamond in the world today, the "President Vargas" stone, weighing 726.60 carats, was shipped recently from Amsterdam to the United States as an ordinary seventy-cent registered mail package. If the gem were placed on your grocer's scale it would tip it to slightly more than five and one-quarter ounces. It is two and one-half inches long, two inches wide and one inch thick, being of blue-white color. In its uncut state the stone is valued at approximately \$750,000.



Here's a \$750,000 handful—the blue-white "President Vargas" diamond weighing 726 carats uncut

POPULAR MECHANICS



NEWEST FOOD for MAN

YOU'LL soon be eating grass and liking it.

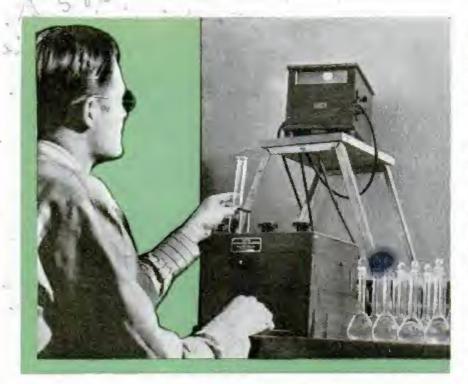
On the menus of tomorrow, you're likely to find breakfast foods, pancakes, bread, and cookies containing quantities of grass; there'll be grass in butter, milk shakes, and ice cream, perhaps

even in candy bars.

This forward step in nutrition is envisioned by a group of biochemists and scientists whose researches show the vast vitamin content in young cereal grasses can be processed into food without changing its appearance or palatability. There's a future for grass as a supplementary ration for poultry, as a pharmaceutical given on doctor's prescription, and as human food. Medical science is watching this development with interest as it gives promise of providing low-income families diets more abundant in vitamins than are now enjoyed by the wealthy.

According to Dr. W. R. Graham, Jr., an authority on cereal grasses,





the soundest nutritional advice is to drink more milk, eat more leafy vegetables. Government figures show a liberal diet, that is, the most healthful diet regardless of cost, calls for a yearly consumption of about 680 pounds of fruits and vegetables, exclusive of potatoes; that is just 350 pounds more than the average person eats.

If everyone could afford to eat on a liberal scale, forty-five million more pounds of fruits and vegetables would be consumed yearly and two and one-quarter billion dollars would be added to the national meal ticket.

By the use of foods now available a minimum adequate diet is estimated to cost between eighteen and twenty-eight cents per person a day, while a liberal diet runs from fiftyseven to eighty-six cents. America's food bill is around \$17,000,000,000 annually, which averages thirty-five cents per person per day. However, nearly a third of the families have an income of around \$9.00 and this, for a family of four, makes prohibitive a weekly expenditure for food of more than \$5.04 —or less than half of the government's estimate for a liberal diet.

But in twelve pounds of dried grass leaves, Doctor Graham points out, can be found all the vitamins and minerals the body needs, when added to low-cost diets. In this way, a minimum adequate diet can be converted into a liberal one at no appreciable rise in cost. This doesn't mean you should join the cows in the nearest meadow; this would avail you nothing, for the crux of the development lies in cutting the young cereal grasses—oats, wheat, barley, and rye—just before jointing, usually when they're about eighteen days old.

At this stage in growth, the leaf material not only is at its peak as far as vitamins are concerned but is free from an excess of fiber that

would make ordinary animal forage too tough and bulky for human consumption. As the plant matures, the proportion of indigestible fiber rapidly increases and there's a corresponding decrease in the proportion of proteins, vitamins, and other digestible values.

Cut with special machinery, the grass is run through an ensilage cutter, dehydrated in a giant revolving drum by flash high temperature and then cleaned and packed according to its ultimate use. Powdered grass sold as a pharmaceutical is preserved in nitrogen and in sealed cans its vitamin



Top, measuring the carotene content of grass with a galvanometer.

Bottom, supplementary rations of dried young cereal grasses are
fed to chickens to study the effect on egg production

content remains unimpaired. Grass production plants are now under full steam in Kansas, near the Texas border, and in Ontario. Where growing conditions are favorable, two and three cuttings can be made before a field is allowed to stem out and produce a grain crop.

There's always skepticism regarding the practical importance of new discoveries in the nutritional field. Particularly is this the case with high sounding pronouncements on vitamins.

Actually, it's no trick for a person of means to get all the vitamins he needs, either at the drug store or the dinner table. But the people who need vitamins most cannot af-

ford to have them in the quantities they should, hence the need for processing grasses into every-day foods. In this manner, all the vitamins we need with the possible exception of D will be made available to us at a price we can afford.

When the chemists first began working with the idea of putting grass into every-day foods they ran into the color problem. Bread,

(Continued to page 147A)





OCTOBER, 1940

Turreted Fort Is Convertible from Dirt Truck



The dirt-moving truck, left, used on Los Angeles river construction project, nearly spans width of highway. It is powered by a marine Diesel engine developing 190 horsepower at 1,100 revolutions per minute and is started by a small gasoline engine. Below, an artist's conception of the same truck as adapted for warfare

Plans have been completed for the conversion of a huge dirtmoving truck into a formidable "battle wagon" with two eightinch naval guns mounted on a turret that revolves in a full circle. The armor has been patterned after that of the U. S. Navy's heavy cruisers; the turret, thirty feet in diameter and eighteen feet high, would be turned by

gears on a track like a railroad turntable and it would be manned by five men under the direction of two others in the front compartment, who would handle the two fifty-caliber machine guns, the radio and a signal headlight. The plan calls for four hydraulic "spuds" to absorb the terrific recoil from the big guns. Resembling giant

vacuum sweepers, these could be released by a lever from the driver's seat and dropped to the ground at a sixty-degree angle. Hard-rubber plungers at the base of the "spuds" would grip the surface of the ground. There are twelve rear drive wheels on the truck, and it can carry ninety tons and travel sixty-five miles an hour.

AMMUNITION TANK AT BASE OF TURRET

GEAR ROTATES TURRET

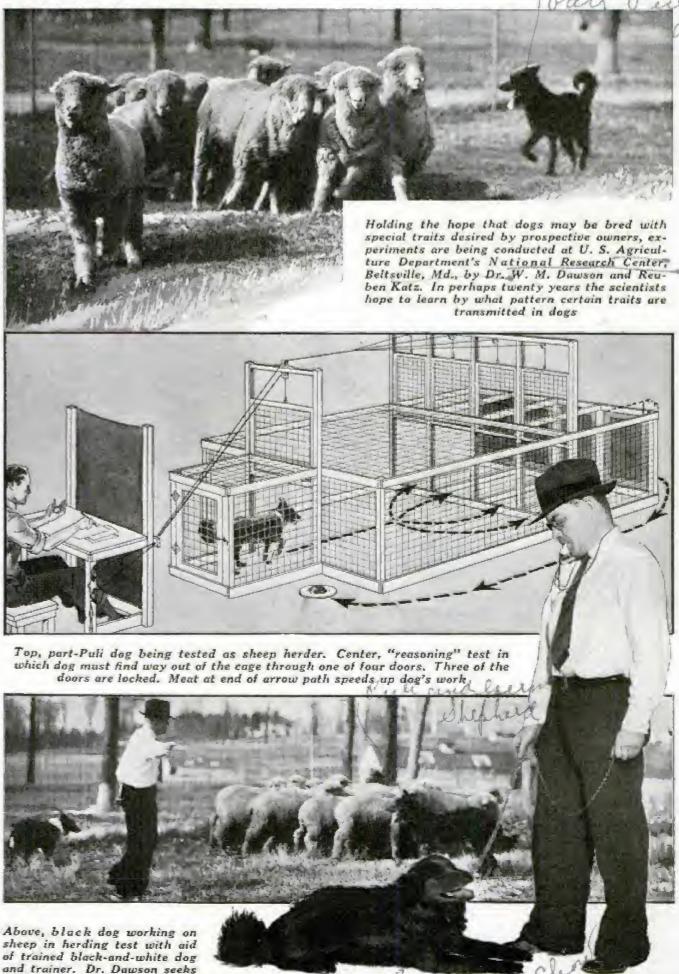
Glider Boat with Twin Hulls Travels Fifty Miles an Hour

Fast express glider boats have been put in service on the Black Sea between the Russian resort town of Sochi and Sukhum. in the oil-well region. The twin-hull vessels have accommodations for 140 and cruise at speeds up to fifty miles an hour.



In ferry service on the Black Sea is this speedy Russian twin-hall glider boat, carrying 140 passengers

Tests Aimed at Producing the Dog You Want



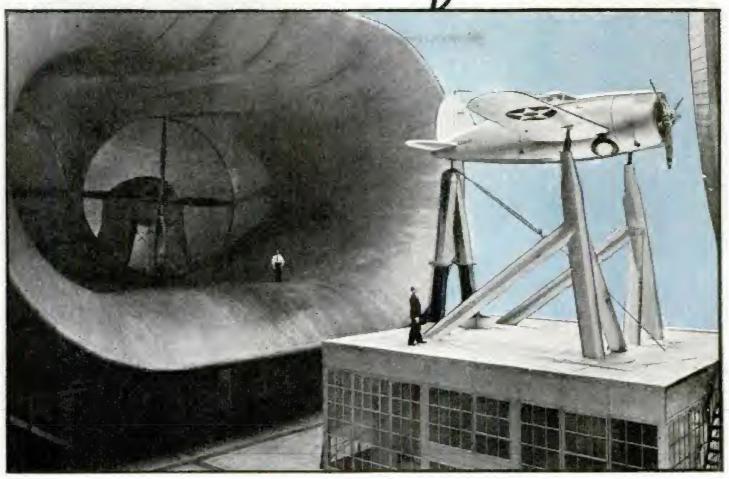
sheep in herding test with aid of trained black-and-white dog and trainer. Dr. Dawson seeks to find how to breed for intelligence, aggressiveness, friendliness and other traits

Above, using the whistle in training dog to obey commands. The dog is awaiting a second whistle signal before leaving its position



Cont HO. Weller, 43 , POPULAR MECHANICS

DAREDEVILS of SCIENCE



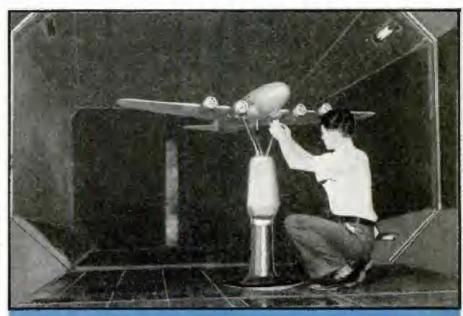
ate jump was imperative, yet Irvin doubted if he could survive exposing his head to that terrific blast of wind. There was only one way to go out—double himself into as close an imitation of a ball as is possible for a six-foot man in a cramped cockpit.

He got one leg under him. To get the other up he had to release the stick. Immediately the tail snapped forward, catapulting Irvin out in a heels-over-head spin.

Centrifugal force and air pressure prevented him from bringing up his outflung arm to pull the rip-cord. The earth whirled about, sometimes seemingly above, sometimes below; yet always nearer. Irvin finally worked his left hand up from the elbow, close to his body, for a backhand pull. Half an hour later he was putting a dupli-

cate of the wrecked plane into another dive. And all for science.

When the army bought its first airplane, the Wright Brothers were their own test pilots, proving by repeated flights that the kite-like affair could meet army specifica-



Top, Brewster XF2A-1 plane on balance of full-scale wind tunnel at Langley Field. Bottom, one-tenth scale model of Boeing "Stratoliner" mounted for tests in University of Washington tunnel



would be given the job of taking this new contraption up, to see if it would fly. His test job would be a "seat of the pants" affair from start to finish. If he liked the way the ship performed, he gave it the O.K., and others of the same design were built. If he didn't like the plane, or couldn't manage it (and lived to tell about it) the model was condemned. Test pilots' opinions then were the final authority.

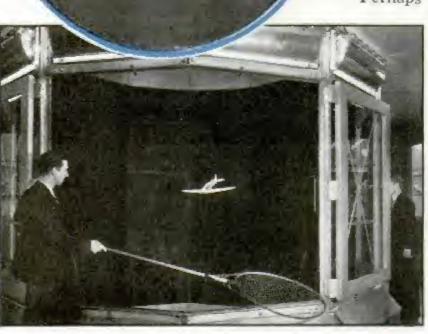
Perhaps that system was unfair to in-

ventors; but it was terribly hard on aviators too. In 1926 Lieutenant Barksdale purposely stalled a plane with a bad spinning reputation to find out what the trouble was. He didn't find out. When he jumped, the tail spun around and cut the shrouds of his 'chute. Both Barksdale and the plane had to be dug out of the ground.

Seven rears ago Captains Frank O. D. Hunter and Hugh Elmendorf were testing the latest model of a two-place pursuit ship—a beautiful job and the fastest thing yet. It behaved splendidly in normal flight. But as soon as a power dive was started, the wings began

turning in a spin from which the pilot could not recover. Hunter succeeded in getting clear at only 150 feet—and lived, though terribly battered; Elmendorf spun into the ground with the ship.

Lieutenant Woodring, one of the army's



Top, left, pilot masked for high-altitude flying; right, rubber cover on leading edge of wing of T.W.A. liner is pulsated by air to break off ice formation. Center, testing wheel-type controls. Bottom, model plane released for study of spin in wind tunnel

tions. Then the World War came along; and everybody had ideas. A designer, working by rule of thumb and with no preliminary research, would incorporate his brain-child into a finished plane, which he would offer to the army or navy.

outstanding pilots—a racer and stunter de luxe—took another one of these ships up to find out just what the trouble was. A giant for strength, he succeeded in pulling out of the same tight power spin, only to have the plane go to pieces around him, scattering parts over a square mile of countryside. Woodring had no chance to use his parachute.

That was the end of that. The army was through with sacrificing its best pilots to find out if inventors and engineers were right. Today organized research takes the place of "the seat of the pants." Every plane now built for the army or navy is put through severe tests at the Langley Field laboratories of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics before being taken into the air.

Scale models are built first, tested in the variable-density wind tunnel under conditions that simulate the actual air pressures met in flight. The free-flight wind tunnel permits the models to be tested for stability and control. The spinning characteristics of these models are then tested in the free-spinning tunnel, dangerous faults eliminated, before a full-sized plane is ever built. Then the manufacturer is required to demonstrate, with his own pilot, that the plane can be flown with safety. An army pilot, from the materiel section at Wright Field, flies alongside the ship being demonstrated, while a civilian aviator puts it through stalls, dives, and other maneuvers.

If the plane gets by this demonstration, it is taken over by the Materiel Section and subjected to a scientific analysis.

First the air-speed meter must be calibrated. A short distance from Wright-Field a two-mile speed course is laid out on level ground, a highway at one end, a steep hill a short distance from the other.

The pilot must come in at top speed, without a preliminary dive, level off five or ten feet from the ground, time the two-mile run with a stop-watch as he passes the pylons at each end. Then he pulls up, notes the readings of the meter and watch, comes in again at the same indicated speed from the other direction, so he will have a course both with and against the wind.

Next time he must repeat this exactly ten miles an hour slower, and so on until the stalling speed is reached.

Flying so close to the ground is always dangerous, especially with planes hitting

(Continued to page 132A)

Band-SawTeethSetQuickly without Removing Blade



Each back-and-forth movement of the crank resets an inch of the band saw's blade

Teeth of band saws can be reset to factory specifications within three to five minutes with a tool that clamps on the blade, making it unnecessary to take the saw off the wheels. Adjustable gauges permit setting it for the width of the saw, and a back-and-forth movement of the crank resets one inch of the blade at each stroke.

Car Runs on Meager Gas Diet to Meet Wartime Rations

With the allotment of gasoline for private automobiles in England reduced nearly to "starvation" rations, new cars are



Built for economy of operation, this British car drives eighty-five miles on a gallon of gasoline

being designed to consume little fuel. One of Britain's smallest autos travels eighty-five miles to a gallon of gasoline and can make forty-five miles an,hour,

no enfor: 1/2/47

Baby's Tags and Footprints Prevent Hospital Mix-up



Baby at top is thoroughly tagged; below, a new arrival signs the register with footprints

There's small chance of mistaken identities in the nursery of the modern hospital. New-born infants are virtually enveloped in tags—wristbands and ankle tags of adhesive tape bearing the name, sex, weight, date of birth, mother's room number, and other essential data. Tags are sometimes affixed also to the baby's back, and to the blanket. A further safeguard is a footprint inked upon the hospital record and on the birth certificate.

"Chameleon" Rods Test Sunlight for Ultraviolet Intensity

Glass rods that "sunburn" and change color like the chameleon are being used to measure the intensity of ultraviolet radiation. Originally light green, the rods turn purple when exposed to daylight, completing the color change in about six hours of midday summer sunshine in Pennsylvania, where they were developed at Pennsylvania State College by Dr. Helmut Landsberg. In the southern states the rods indicated thirty to fifty per cent more ultraviolet than in the north.

Clamp-on Running Light for Boat Uses Flashlight Batteries

Flashlight batteries supply current for running lights now available for rowboats, canoes, dinghies and other small craft. A clamp provides a quick means for attaching the light, which may be mounted on the boat in either vertical or horizontal position.



Headgear for Baseball Batter Guards against "Bean Ball"

Various types of helmets to be worn by baseball players as they stand at bat have been designed as a result of frequent injuries resulting from players being hit by pitched balls. One of them is of tough, fibrous material and clamps a pair of conical earlaps over the skull of the batter. Sponge rubber and lightweight leather form the lining and inside rim.



Two views of headguard designed to eliminate injuries to baseball players hit by pitched balls

POPULAR MECHANICS

Television Telephone Sends Image of Speaker

Teaming television with the telephone, a preview of the visual telephone of the future with which the speakers will see each other's image as they converse was presented at the General Motors exhibit at the New York world's fair. Still far from practical realization, the demonstration apparatus combined a portable television transmitter, connected with the twelveinch receiving screen by coaxial cable, with a push-button telephone. When the receiver was lifted, the image of the person making the call flashed on the screen. Fantastic as it may appear

today, engineers believe that television telephones may become commonplace within a generation, when ultra-short wave transmission is perfected. It may find its first



When the receiver is picked up in the world's fair demonstration of the "television telephone," the image of the caller appears on the screen

use in conversation between government officers or industrial heads where certainty of the identity of the speakers on confidential business is essential.

Free Road Service to Tourists Given by Mobile Office

Motorists traveling in the state of Michigan are offered free road service by a tourist information office patrolling the highways in an automobile distinctively marked, "Road Patrol—At Your Service." Any motorist who needs directions, whose

car is out of gasoline, has a flat tire, or is stalled, can get assistance by stopping one of these cars. Jacks, tow lines, tools and first-aid kit, as well as maps, folders and booklets on cities and points of interest in the state, are carried by the patrol cars.



One of the duties of patrol car attendants is to help puzzled motorist find way about state highways

Serum Made of Cancer Tissue May Aid in Diagnosis

Two University of Illinois medical scientists have developed a serum which may prove helpful in the diagnosis of cancer, although no attempts to use it for cancer treatment have been made. The serum gave positive reactions with the blood of cancer patients in a high percentage of cases. It was prepared from the blood of rabbits injected with aluminum hydroxides containing ground and specially treated cancer tissue. Tests were made by stratifying blood serum from the human subject over the rabbit cancer serum; a white ring developing at the zone of contact indicated a positive reaction.

OCTOBER, 1940

Tree mouth

10. H. WEIDE

RESHAPING



THE automobile you will ride in a year or two from now may have been conceived last week in the brain of a nineteen-year-old student.

cont. allen Warren The refrigerator that will grace your kitchen, the radio that will await the touch of your finger, the piano that will add so much dignity to your living room and the lamps that will accentuate the beauty which industrial design has given to modern-furnishingsany of these may have been shaped the other day by a boy or girl in their 'teens.

> To say these things may happen is to put it conservatively. They have happened already. Millions of people have ridden in a popular automobile styled by a chap in his early twenties from a theory evolved when he was younger. Some of the largest corporations in America have been turn

ing to students for design inspiration.

Industry has discovered that the brilliant pattern for the world of the future can be cut from the colorful desires of the youth of today. So youth is taking by storm one of the youngest professions of the machine age, industrial design.

Bending seriously over benches, molding fresh ideas from plastic minds into plastic materials, or standing alertly before electric tools, cutting the barnacles of tradition from the accessories of modern civilization, are the fledgling industrial designers of tomorrow.

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WORLD



The industrial-design departments of a dozen or more advanced schools throughout the United States, notably those of . Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, are providing wells of refreshing ideas developed by youths, and industries are dipping into these reservoirs of design inspiration to shape their products and their packages. Their requests for designs are welcomed by the schools because they provide practical problems, instead of dull theoretical examples for the youthful designers to tackle.

The designs turned out by the youngsters are welcomed by the industrial concerns because they are uninhibited, forward-looking and often brilliant forecasts of the trend of the times and the tastes of the public.

You have the explanation of young Donald R. Dohner, Supervisor of Industrial Design at Pratt Institute, for the success of the youngsters. He says:

"When we are youthful we are constantly wishing for things like automobiles, boats, airplanes, radios and fine furnishings. Never having possessed these things, we never get so familiar with them that we accept their traditional form as final.





These products of students of design combine beauty and function. Note effect of massive bulk in small apartment piano. The grill effect on refrigerator (bottom) ventilates cooling unit



"So, when a youth tackles a problem of design, he is likely to be influenced more by what he wants than what he sees. So his desires shape his design. If these desires are practical as well as beautiful, the student is likely to catch the swift forward trend. What youth wants today is what the adult will want tomorrow."

The practical problems presented to the students by the industries have influenced a shift to a new technique of teaching industrial design, a shift away from paper and pencil sketches and toward actual design in three dimensions. This is illustrated by the method in vogue at the Brooklyn school. Except on the most simple prob-

lems, the use of paper sketches is eliminated and the student is usually given a plastic material with which to shape his theory in three dimensions much in the same manner that a sculptor works out his preliminary forms. Pencil and paper tend to produce "frozen" designs.

If the object to be designed is too large and the plastic material is too soft, they use what is called the architectonic, or structural method, and the idea takes form in wood, Masonite, or perhaps sheet lead. Or it may be plastic material over a firm base or structure, such

as crumpled or twisted paper dipped in plaster.

By these methods, the design is kept dynamic and mobile until it takes its final shape after weeks of criticism, study and change. The purpose is not to make a product, or the model of a product. The student is always impressed with the fact that he is creating a design just as, in the old fashioned technique, he would draw, erase and correct with pencil and paper.

When the final threedimensional sketch is finished the usual task is to complete the product in actual, practical material

so that a swanky ceramic vase is a vase, a decorative lamp is a lamp and a modern chair is a chair. Where huge machines would be required for such operations as stamping or forging, the natural effect is obtained by other means such as metallic coatings over plaster or wood. The completed plastic sketch often serves as a mold for plaster easts of the design.

Where the design can be fashioned on a moderate-size electric tool, students will find the tool in their classroom, for they are encouraged to continue their design and create ideas right at the machine as it abrades and cuts the materials to the urge of their imaginations.

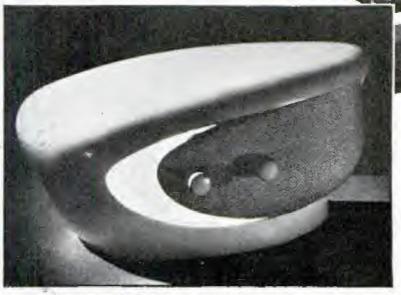


Top, modeling lamp fixtures for the wall in plastic materials, the "trial and error" method of industrial design. Below, model of a small car for crowded city use, cast in aluminum



The task of design is not so simple as it seems, however. Long before the young designers are given the plastic material with which to work, there is a series of complex problems to be solved.

For example, a radio manufacturer may ask an instructor to have a class submit designs for a modern, practical instrument with special selling points applicable to a market already flooded with radios. The



Top, Pratt Institute designers work with their fingers, not pencils. Center, modeling with balsa wood and plastics. Bottom, a tiny radio for the boudoir

student must spend days learning the history of radios from the crystal set to television and frequency modulation. Having mastered this, the student must next tackle the radio market, doing intensive research into the price structure so that the machine will find a niche in a crowded field.

Having decided on a price level, the designer must next hit upon a special

(Continued to page 139A)

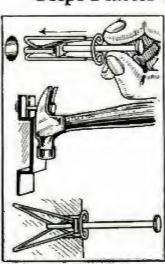
Lighted Cane for the Blind Protects User in Dark



Blind man's cane becomes glowing shaft to protect him at night. Light is supplied by bulb in handle

Easily seen by automobile drivers at night is an illuminated cane made of Lucite, designed to protect the blind as well as other pedestrians when crossing dark highways. Controlled by a switch, light from a small bulb in the handle causes the entire glasslike shaft to glow. A hole in the tip of the cane also emits a ray of light. A pencil battery is the power source.

Expanding Nut-and-Bolt Unit Grips Plaster or Wallboard



For use in fastening molding, metal cap strips or other attachments to walls that will not hold nails or screws, a nut and bolt are combined with an expanding wire frame to lock the unit behind the wall. To make it ready for insertion in the wall, the wire frame is compressed by placing the prong ends on a hard surface and pushing against the head of the bolt. Once inside, the wire frame is expanded into locking position by pulling the bolt outward with a claw hammer. This also brings the nut forward until it rests flush against the outer flange of the wire frame. The device will hold in plastered walls, plaster board or composition wallboard.

Wall Washer Pumped by Hand Cleans and Rinses Surface

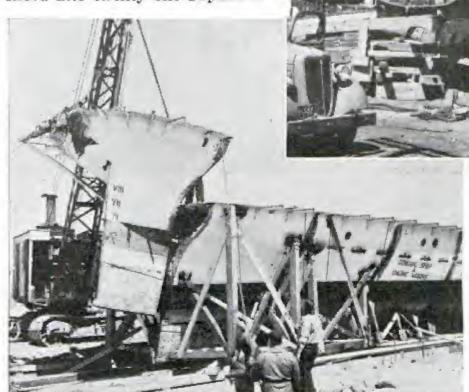
Cleaning walls is done quickly with a machine that washes and rinses, and also saves much of the cleaning material. Compressed air provided by hand pumps operates the washer which consists of two separate tanks, one containing the cleansing solution and the other clear water which are rubbed on the walls by applicators with finger-tip control. A third applicator, independent of the machine, is used as a buffer to remove streaks. The manufacturer of the wall washer claims that one man can clean from 2,500 to 3,200 square feet of walls a day. The machine can be used to clean painted walls, ceilings, washable wallpaper, marble and tile.



Washing machine for walls has separate tanks for cleaning and rinsing water applied by air pressure

Steel Ship Carved into Sections for Rail Trip

After spending more than fifty years on Lake Champlain in Vermont, the vessel "Chateaugay" has been transported 300 miles overland to a new home in the waters of New Hampshire's Lake Winnepesaukee. To make the journey in freight cars from Burlington, Vt., the steel ship was sliced into twenty-one separate



Above, two ten-foot "slices" of ship on flatcars. Left, stern being hoisted into place in readiness for welders to complete the assembly

ten-foot sections, which were reassembled by welders upon arrival at Lakehurst, N. H. The ship is now 205 feet long with a beam of fifty-four feet, and is powered by a 1,500-horsepower engine.

Tiny Telescope on Spectacles Is an Aid to Weak Vision

For persons with eye defects which require special compensation to permit reading, a tiny telescope which is mounted on the spectacles has just been developed. Although it has a lens only six millimeters wide, it is constructed with the same precise optical technique used in the 100-inch telescope of Mt. Wilson observatory. The telescopic lens is recommended in certain cases where vision is so poor that no ordinary lens can magnify objects to sufficient size for the patient to see them clearly. The new telescope for spectacles has a Lucite cap enclosing a lens of additional magnifying power for reading.

If you will send stamped, self-addressed envelope to our Bureau of Information, you will be given the name and address of the manufacturer of or dealer in any article described in this magazine.



Telescope's Lucite cap also has a magnifying lens

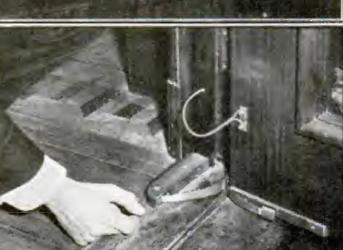
A "HAUNTED" HOUSE







There is an old haunted house in San Francisco—haunted by mysterious music and a host of mechanical surprises contrived by its owner, Dr. Cecil Nixon. Push the doorbell and you hear taps sounded. A door (left center) opens at your command, unseen instruments play tunes. At upper left is the relay board of homemade organ; right, watch mechanism starts flutes playing melodies every half hour



Left, spring fashioned from discarded hand organ makes the door fly open when unlatched by a mechanical "zor." Above, the basement is filled with mechanisms of organ and flutes



Tripod over Six Feet High Aids Odd-Angle Shooting



"Daddy-longlegs" tripod helps amateur photographer shoot odd-angle pictures from overhead position

Photographs can be taken from new angles by mounting your camera high on a telescoping tripod that extends six feet and ten inches. Built in four sections, it folds to twenty-three and three-fourths inches. The tripod will work at the lower levels with equal efficiency.

Nearly as Many Killed by Falls as in Traffic Accidents

Motor vehicle accidents take the largest annual toll of lives in this country, but home accidents are a close second. There were 93,000 accidental deaths in 1939, and 32,600, or thirty-five per cent, were attributed to traffic accidents, while 32,000 occurred at home. Deaths from falls numbered 25,800, twenty-eight per cent of the year's total. A fatal accident occurs every five and one-half minutes, and every sixteen minutes someone dies in an automobile accident. The toll of injuries is even more staggering; 8,800,000 injuries result-

ing in a day or more of disability were reported, someone in every four families being disabled during the year. The National Safety Council estimated that for every ten workers killed in occupational accidents, sixteen were killed in off-thejob accidents. The death total from automobile accidents was about the same as 1938, but on a basis of miles traveled the figures show great improvement since 1929. In 1929, there were 31,215 traffic deaths, with 26,501,000 cars traveling 180,000,000,-000 miles in a year for an average of 17.3 deaths per hundred million miles; last year there were 32,600 deaths, and 30,615,000 American cars traveled 270,000,000,000 miles for an average of 12.1 deaths per hundred million miles. The automobile death rate is lowest numerically in February, lowest in proportion to mileage in June, rising to a peak in December.

Germicidal Lamp over Doorway Kills Air-Borne Bacteria

Forming an invisible curtain of germ-killing ultraviolet, a germicidal lamp thirty-six inches long, developed by General Electric, when mounted above a doorway, will destroy a high percentage of bacteria borne through the "curtain" by air currents. The new lamp will be used in doctors' waiting rooms, hospitals, schools, movie theaters and offices.



Three-foot glass tube being inserted over doorway emits invisible curtain of germ-killing ultraviolet

Light Beams Sound Buzzer to Guide the Blind

Blind persons are guided through a building by light beams that actuate a portable buzzer in a system demonstrated recently at the American Foundation for the Blind in New York, Entirely without escorts, sightless. persons could find various offices, go up and down stairs and walk through long halls with the aid of light projected from various locations and reflected by mirrors. As long as he walks within the light beam, the small photronic-cell buzzer unit he carries continues to sound; if he strays off the beam the buzzer becomes silent and the blind person shifts the unit around until he hears the signal. The lights are placed at strategic locations and can be controlled from a central switchboard, so that a

person desiring to go to a certain office can throw a switch governing a series of lights leading to that room. At corners where



Portable buzzer sounds as long as it is held in light beam projected from wall. Switches arrange beams to lead blind person to various locations

light beams overlap and confuse, a sanded strip in the floor indicates the intersection; two strips mark a doorway, three a stair.

Mask Protects Speedboat Pilot from Injury in Racing Spill

Because luckless outboard racing pilots, catapulted from their boats at high speed, frequently suffer facial injuries and some-

Outboard racing pilot wearing mask of heavy netting to guard his face in case of a spill at high speed

times lose their glasses and even their teeth, an official of the Detroit outboard association has invented a face net to be worn for protection in case of a spill.

Sap of Tree Keeps Lard Fresh without Cold Storage

Small quantities of preservative material obtained from the sap of a tropical tree can be added to lard when it is processed to protect its natural qualities and to keep it fresh when exposed to air without refrigeration. The discovery followed ten years of research by chemists of a large firm. The substance is extracted from the sap of the guaiacum tree growing in Central America and the West Indies. Lard so treated is odorless and bland in flavor.

Rogowski.

Ler 0 6 529

ADVENTURES of the



that some of them would get no sleep for thirty-six hours. Heavy rain in the lowlands was bad enough and this storm extended into the mountains. But the crews were prepared. Plans had been laid months before and emergency equipment was ready. Detours on high ground around low sections of highway had been kept up.

Loaded with men, emergency signs,

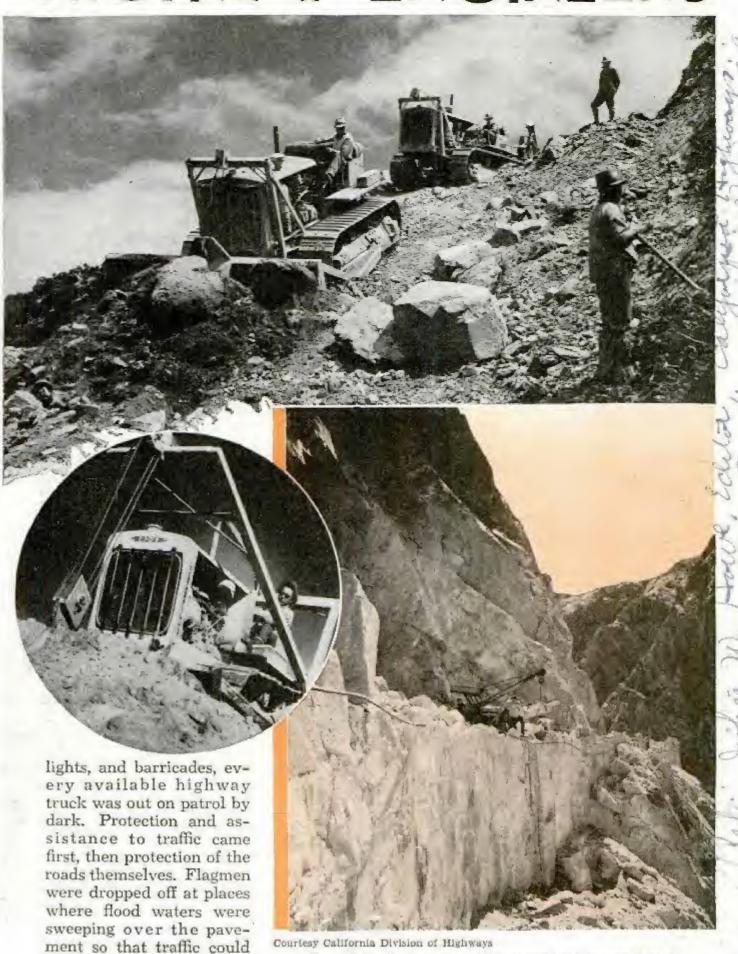
LATE in the afternoon urgent telephone and teletype messages were being dispatched from Sacramento to district engineers in five counties. "Heavy general storm forecast. Put every man on emergency duty."

Even without the official order the highway engineers knew that they had a job on their hands and

Top, snowplow cleaning up drift. Center, drawing of double-deck railroad and highway bridge which will span river 500 feet above river bed. Bottom, making highway cut with hydraulic equipment

POPULAR MECHANICS

HIGHWAY ENGINEERS



OCTOBER, 1940

be guided across until the

waters became so deep that

Top, Caterpillar tractors and huge road-making machines at

work. Circle, another road machine. Right, line and trucks,

with equipment, building a mountain highway



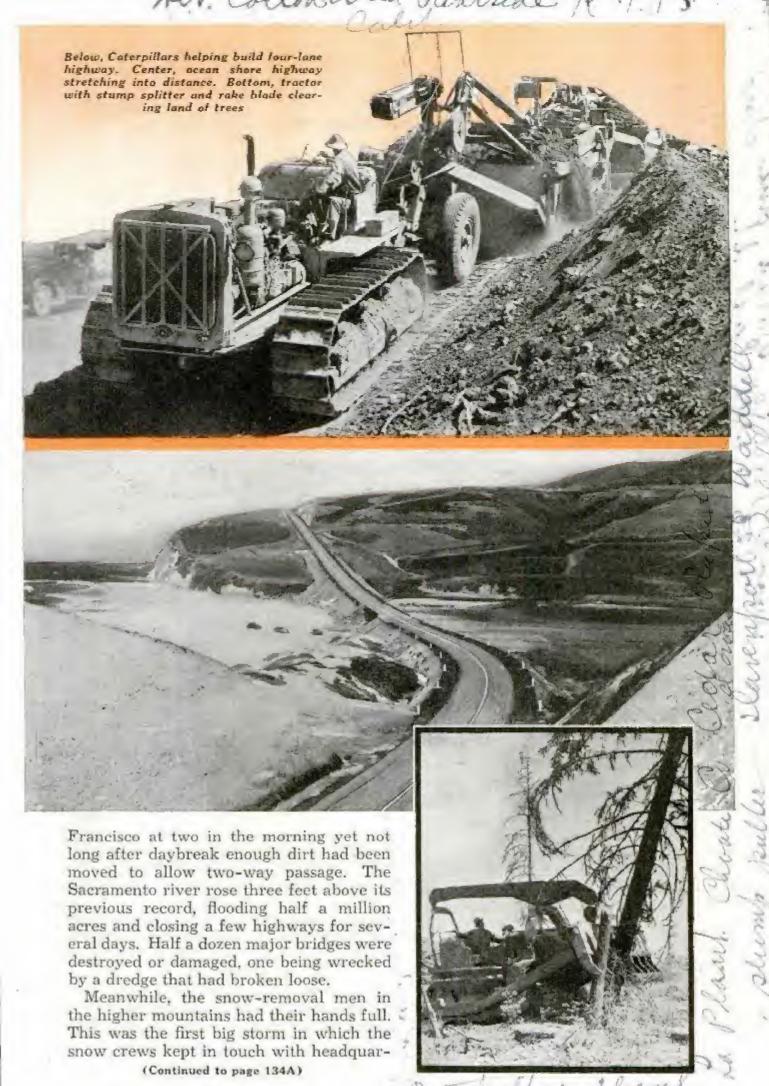
it was time to erect barriers. Tractors with bulldozer attachments were unloaded where slides were probable. Some of the engineers watched the banks under the roads where swollen streams were eating at the dirt. More and more sections of highway were closed. By now the maintenance men were watching their bridges with anxious eyes. Culverts that carried minor watercourses under the highways were beginning to clog with debris and brush. Road crews battled to keep them open.

In five days the storm did one and a quarter million dollars worth of damage to



Top, building subgrade for new state highway in Washington. Right, redwood timber arch bridge in California. Bottom, earth-moving outfit at work straightening Altamont Pass

main roads of central California, but through the worst of it the engineers of the state highway department kept traffic moving over nearly every important route. Sixty thousand cubic yards of dirt slid across one busy highway south of San

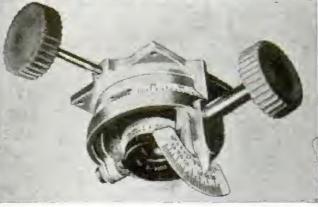


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OCTOBER, 1940

Lens with a Tilting Mount Corrects Distortion





Scale (below) on lens mount enables operator to tilt lens exact number of degrees to correct distortion

Photographs taken at an angle can be corrected during enlarging by the use of a mount which tilts the lens to straighten out vertical and horizontal lines in exact scale measurement. The image is projected to an easel tilted to produce the desired correction. Then the lens is tilted the same number of degrees to bring the entire image in sharp focus. The device also can be used to change perspective, lengthen or shorten the image without stopping the lens to small diaphragm openings.

Lockjaw Vaccine Averts Death from Wounds of Battle

With a new kind of vaccination, men who go to war can be turned into walking factories of lockjaw antitoxin, ready to fight off lockjaw, or tetanus, if they are wounded. Such protection has been made possible by the development of a tetanus toxoid made directly from the germs themselves, instead of from horse serum which sometimes causes so-called serum sickness. It is effective either when given at the time of injury or in advance as a protective measure, guarding likewise against danger of lockjaw from such peacetime accidents as automobile mishaps, Fourth of July hurns and rusty-nail wounds.

Long-Arm Sprinkler for Garden Avoids Washing Away Soil

522.

Provided with a long, lightweight handle that reaches back into deep flower beds, a garden sprinkler has a nozzle scientifically designed to slow down the motion of the water while still delivering full pipe volume. Its purpose is to avoid breaking down and washing away the valuable topsoil with the force of the hose stream. The sprinkler weighs only a pound. With it the gardener need not step into the soft soil of the flower bed to water plants at the rear, nor turn on the high-pressure hose.



Inset shows construction of nozzle designed to slow down force of full stream of water

748

SPEED. the KEY to WAR

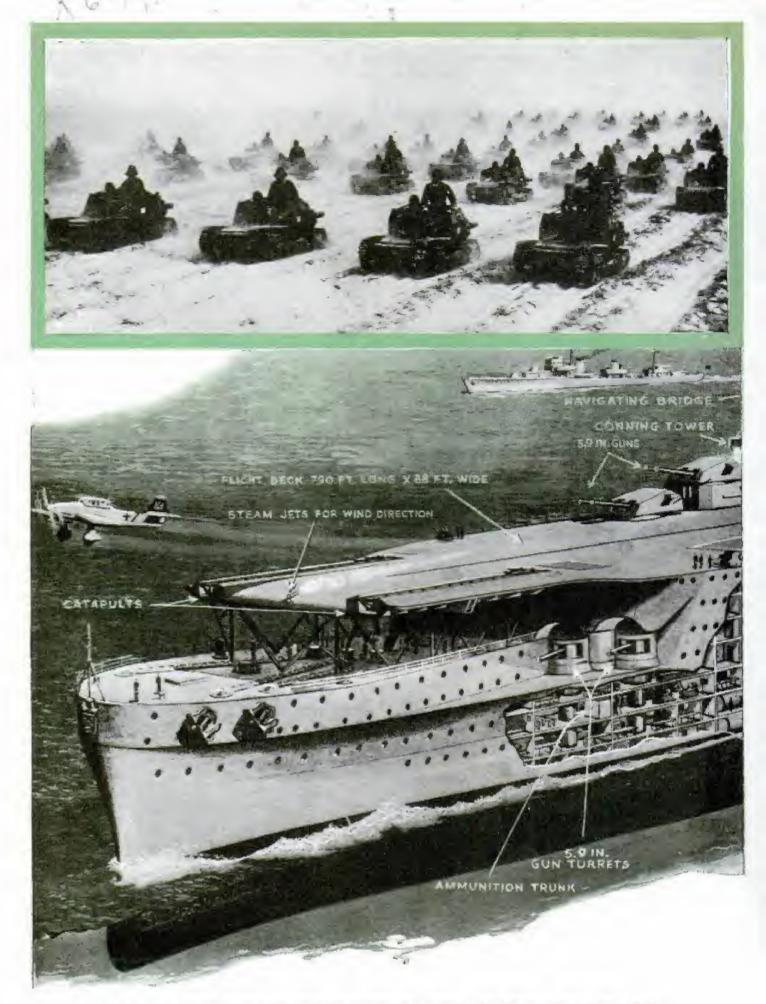


By swift, stabbing thrusts the German army ended the static trench warfare typical of 1914-18, and the war of 1940 became a war of movement, with speed the key to success. The cavalry, traditional raiders, took to the air, the tank, the sea; parachutists above are a modern version of the mounted scouts of earlier wars. Carrying quick-firing guns and bicycles, they drop behind enemy lines to seize airports, bridgeheads, even cities, or to wreck enemy communications and power lines

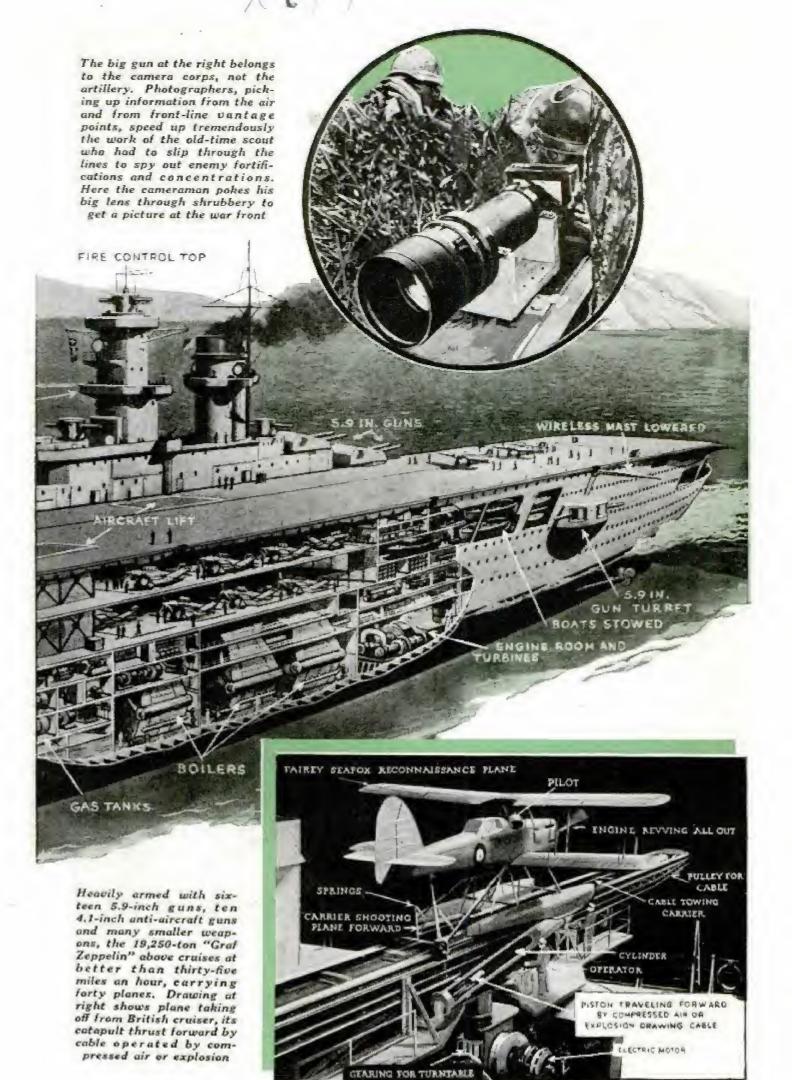
OCTOBER, 1940 535

ALL GEAR IS

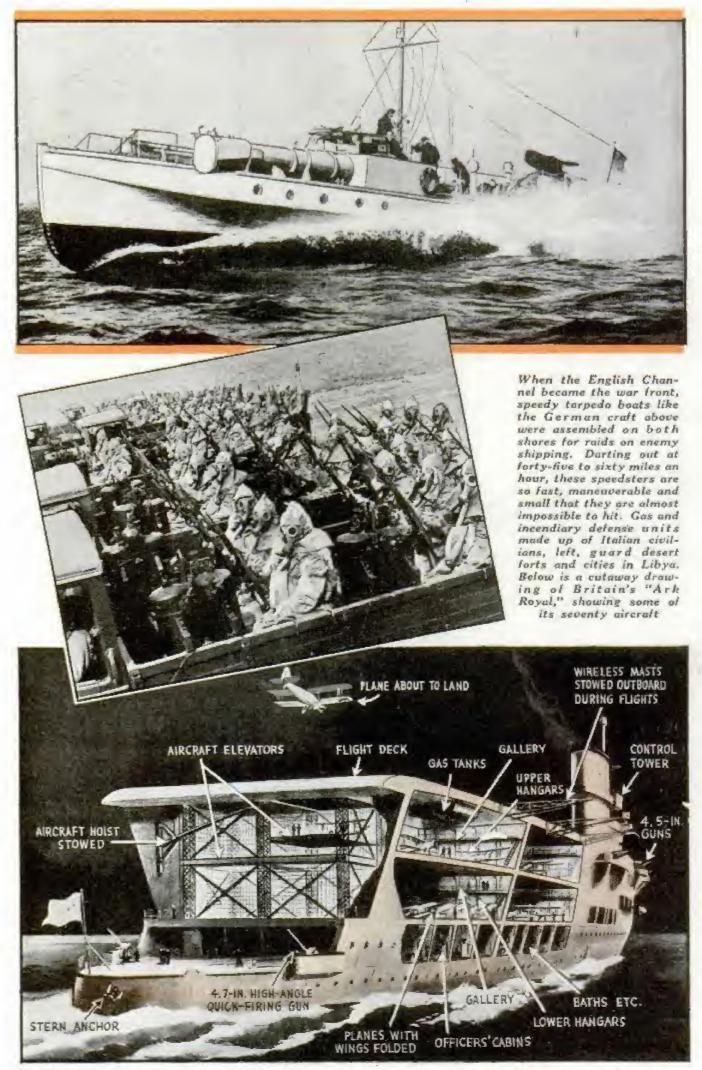
CANNOT WHIRL LOOSE DURING FREE FALL



Speed disorganizes the enemy, but calls for utmost organization by the attacker. Top, a fleet of small, fast tanks used to batter holes for the supporting infantry to penetrate; this was once accomplished by the cavalry charge. American factories now are building large numbers of armored cars and tanks for mobile warfare. Across the pages is the "Graf Zeppelin," Germany's first aircraft carrier, launched nearly two years ago and presumably now in service



OCTOBER, 1940



Chamber Tests Pilot for 40,000-Foot Ascent

Without leaving the ground airplane pilots can reach the equivalent of a 40,000-foot altitude in an "ascension" chamber, which permits a doctor to study their blood pressure, the effect on their ears and other physical effects to establish the individual's suitability for high-altitude flying. The pressure chamber "thins" the air corresponding to that of higher altitudes while the occupant inside is protected by an oxygen mask.

> Pilot entering altitude chamber which lowers air pressure to equal that at 40,000-loot altitude in eight minutes



aus over aleste

Long-Handled Weeder for Gardens Eliminates Stooping

Tiresome stooping when weeding is eliminated with a long-handled garden tool that severs the roots of the weeds and au-

SLIDING HANDLE FORWARD OPENS TEETH
SPRING

One-punch garden weeder digs weed and picks it up automatically. Inset shows how pick-up device works

tomatically grips each plant as it is cut. When the V-shaped blade is driven into the ground to cut off a root, the sliding handle forces a pivoted arch to open so it may slip over the top of the plant. Upon release of the pressure, a spring closes the toothed end of the arch against the blade, with the severed plant held between them. Still without stooping, the gardener can remove the weed and toss it aside.

Ladder "Shoe" with Non-Slip Sole Gives Safety and Comfort

Safety and comfort for workers
who climb and
stand on ladders
is provided by a
non-slip "shoe"
that consists of a
sturdy steel plate
held on the wearer's foot with
strong leather
straps. Conven-



ient to carry and easy to put on, it has a rubber slip-proof bottom and a grooved arch that grips the ladder rung securely.

OCTOBER, 1940

Gun

Spare Flashlight Batteries Are Used in Emergency



Extra set of batteries in carrying case are always connected so flip of switch brings them into use

Light in weight so it can be worn comfortably on a headband, a flashlight outfit designed especially for forestry service holds two sets of batteries in a separate case which is worn on the belt or carried in a pocket. The two-inch headlamp uses only two batteries, and the case is equipped with a switch wired to the flashlight to permit alternating from one set of batteries to the other. Thus if one set loses its power, the extra cells are brought into service immediately by flipping the switch.

Rail Grinder "Steps" Off Track to Let Street Cars Pass

Having a gasoline engine of its own and riding on solid tired wheels independent of the rails and trolley wire, an eleven-ton track grinder is able to pick up its grind-



Track grinder moves out of street car's way under own power; grinders get power from trolley wire

ing mechanism and drive off the track to allow street cars to pass, resuming its task within one minute and twenty seconds. This "side-stepping" ability permits it to work where traffic conditions barred the old rail-riding grinder. Two grinding units, operated by separate fifteen-horsepower electric motors that connect to the overhead wire through a trolley pole, are mounted in conjunction with an elevating truck geared to one of the electric motors for power to lift the mechanism clear of the tracks when getting ready to travel.

Push-Button Telephone Serves as Private Exchange



Telephone used as switchboard, inter-office or extension phone, is made private by raising tiny post

Serving as a small private exchange, a push-button telephone has been developed by Western Electric and Bell Telephone engineers. It permits a call to be answered from any phone in the line by pressing one of the selector buttons at the base of the phone. The telephones may be used for inter-office communication or as extensions on each other, but any one of the instruments can be made private by lifting up one of the posts upon which the cradle rests. Another switches off the bell when one does not wish to be disturbed.

■For every gallon of gasoline burned in a modern automobile engine 9,000 gallons of air are required.

ACETON Photos courtesy The Hecht Co. and U. S. Bureau of Home Economics A Wart THE average consumer buys largely on faith. Indeed, he must. If he attempted to acquire skill in judging everything, he would have little time for earning money to pay for anything. Fortunately, most nationally advertised products are exactly what the manufacturer claims them to be. The consumer can buy them on faith in perfect safety. But there are certain things used by everybody that carry no

Top, left, dipping viscose and acetate rayon fabric in acetane dissolves acetate yarns; right, coat material boiled in lye solution leaves spun rayon skeleton showing coat was only part wool. Below, viscose rayon stands hot iron, acetate rayon melts

manufacturer's guarantee. Often the quality can be determined by simple tests. In buying furniture, have the salesman tell you exactly what it is made of; then have him put it in writing. This protects you in case of misrepresentation.

Look first at the finish of furni-



ture. If this is rough, the whole piece has been thrown together cheaply. Look at the drawers of a bureau or desk. If the dovetailing fits perfectly, the workmanship on the whole piece will be of good quality. But if you find poor joints where they may be seen, you can

be sure the concealed parts will be even more poorly fitted. A cheap piece is cheap all over.

Good

Poor

Don't insist on solid mahogany or maple or walnut on a piece having large surfaces. Even the best wood will warp or crack if wide, solid panels are used. A good veneer job is stronger, because the layers are glued together with the grain crossed. "All mahogany" or "all maple" means veneer is used, but all of the specified wood.

If you want a less expensive piece that will stand up just as well, get gumwood with your favorite wood as the surface veneer. For large panels, gum stands the gaff better than some more expensive woods. Pine and tupelo are the foundation woods of most inexpensive furniture.

In buying upholstered furniture, sit on the cushion to depress the springs, then reach underneath and feel. If your hand meets a lot of open space covered with cheesecloth, the piece has single-unit construction which will not stand up. If the bottom is covered with a substantial fabric, and you feel the springs supported by strong webbing, you have a hand-tied piece that will wear well.

Next, turn the piece over and read the sanitary label, required on all upholstered furniture. This tells what the filling is: and if it is new or secondhand. Horsehair, cotton felt, and moss, are the best fillings in that order. Wood wool is the cheapest, being nothing but excelsior.

You will have to use your judgment on the covering; but a fabric that looks and feels durable most likely will be; especially if the finish and construction of the rest of the piece are of good quality. Real leather can be distinguished from imitation by the feel. Leather quickly assumes the temperature of the hand, feels warm. Imitation leather feels cool. This same test may be

> applied to luggage. But there are many qualities of leathers. Cheap split leather has the flesh side to the surface and will be rough. Good leather has the hair side up and is smooth even when artificially grained. Good canvas-covered luggage wears better than cheap



Top, weighted silk is hard to ignite, pure silk burns easily. Center, how to choose a well-fitting shirt. Bottom, note close weave and substantial binding of lower rug compared with cheaper one above it

leather. You can tell the quality of any luggage by the hardware and stitching. No manufacturer permits good materials to be botched by shoddy workmanship.

Rugs may be judged by closeness of weave and depth of pile.
Fold over the edge of a rug along
its width to expose the piling. The
yarns should be close together,
have an even dye throughout
their length, and be three-eighths
to one-half inch long. Now turn
the corner of the rug over and
count the weave, which should
run six or seven warps to the inch.
Cheap rugs will have fewer warps
to the inch and a much shorter
pile.

Modern textiles are becoming





Top, materials that fray and pull out at seams need overcasting, double stitching or binding at seams. Single-unit construction of upholstered furniture is inferior to hand-tied. Right, what to look for in shirt sleeves

more and more difficult to judge. New fabrics are continually being developed; frequently two or three fibers are combined in the same fabric. Labels seldom tell the full story. "Part wool" might mean as little as five-per-cent wool. "Spun rayon and wool," or "silk and acetate" are equally misleading. If one can afford to buy for appearance only, a chance can be taken, but if wear must be considered, it is necessary to know precisely what a fabric is made of.

The U. S. Bureau of Home Economics advises simple burning tests to identify fabrics. Untreated cotton burns quickly with a yellow flame, and an odor of burning paper. Even when the flame is blown out, the edge will continue to smolder with a yellow glow that eats rapidly into the fabric, and is very difficult to put out. Practically no ash is left, and what there is is black.

(Continued to page 124A)

Hinged'Closet' Fits on Door to Hold House Supplies



Fitted on back of the kitchen, bathroom or closet door, these shelves offer extra storage space

Extra closet space for bathroom or kitchen supplies can be added by fastening an enameled-steel cabinet on the back of a door, where it takes up no room. These cabinets, four and three-quarters inches deep, are available in various styles for holding brooms and mops, for linens and toilet articles as shown, or in an eight-shelf model for general storage. Offered in various colors and sizes, the "closets" are hinged to the door.

Low-Cost Radium Substitutes Produced for Medical Use

Artificial production of radium-like substances for medical use is possible by methods covered in a patent recently granted five Italian physicists. Their plan calls for bombarding materials with neutrons whose energy has been slowed down by a screen of suitable material, either solid or liquid. If a liquid is used, the material to be treated can be suspended or dissolved in the liquid itself. Sodium is one

of the most widely used elements, but platinum, gold, iodine, potassium, copper and chlorine also have been made more or less radioactive by this method, which promises artificially radioactive substances at lower cost than natural radium.

Special Purpose Electric Outlets Handy for the Home

To save annoyance when plugging into a receptacle located out of sight or behind furniture, the slots of a new electric outlet are centered in a dished surface to guide the plug blades into position for quick contact. Another outlet includes a hook to hold an electric clock, while a deep recess conceals the cord and plug, thus eliminating the untidy extension cord and allowing the clock to hang flush with the wall. For damp locations and outdoor use, a weath erproof outlet contains a rubber mat under the plate to keep out moisture and is aided also by a rubber cap attached to the plate by a bead chain. A fourth innovation is a luminous wall plate for both switches and outlets which is made of plastic that glows visibly in the dark.



Left to right, top, electric clock and weatherproof outlets; bottom, "dished" outlet and luminous plate

POPULAR MECHANICS

544

Outdoor Assembly Speeds Plane Production

To keep up with its rush of orders for military planes, the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation has moved the assembly line outdoors at its San Diego plant. This allows more room for production indoors. The company is concentrating on three types, a mammoth four-engine flying boat, a two-engine patrol bomber and



Army bomber, above, and lour-engined flying boat at left near completion on the outdoor assembly line at San Diego plant

a four-engine bomber for the army. The engines of these huge planes are rated at 1,200 horsepower each, giving them high speed and a wide cruising range. They carry crews of six to nine men.

Pumps Drain Sea-Level Farm through Series of Canals

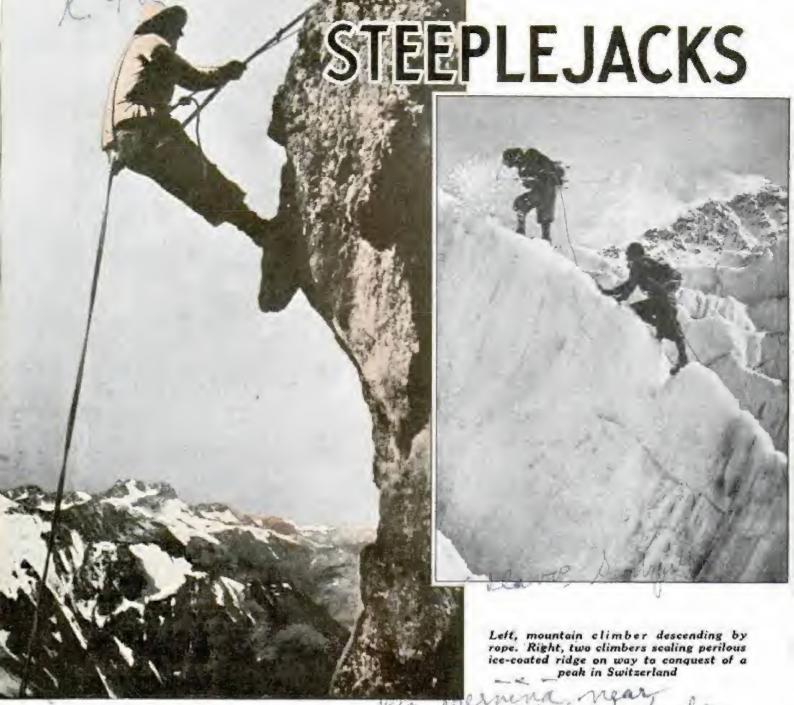
Draining a farm located at sea' level was solved by pumping water through canals cut to a point three miles back from the bay. Gigantic turbines, powered with sixteen-cylinder Diesel engines and capable of pumping 6,200 gallons per minute, keep the water moving. The pumps are installed in series so that, starting at the farthest point, the first pump forces water to the next one, which gives it another push. This operation is repeated until the water empties into the bay.

Workmen installing one of the giant turbines used for draining sea-level farm. Pumps are placed in series along the level canals, some of which stretch three miles inland, to keep water flowing back into the bay



Llowdie

along 54



less than the student, but he was a skilled climber who knew just how to absorb the sudden yank of the rope and stop the heavier weight with his hands.

Climbing mountains for the sport of it and for the thrill of accomplishing feats that seem impossible, mountaineers who use modern high-angle climbing technique are ascending to places never before reached by man. They mount sheer cliffs that apparently were never intended to be climbed, crawl out and over overhangs that have nothing but thin air for thousands of feet below, and take advantage of every tiny crack and knob to move like flies up the sides of towering peaks.

The result is that they have climbed every major mountain in the United States. Dangerous peaks once declared impossible

HIGH on the face of the cliff the young mountaineer was clinging to the vertical wall, his toes wedged in a small crack. From around his waist a thin rope trailed to an iron ring in the rock fifteen feet away and on to a companion.

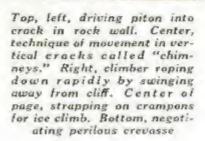
As he reached for a new handhold he heard a quiet command: "All right. Jump off." For a moment he hesitated, then let go. His body plummeted down and came to a stop thirty feet below, swinging at the end of the rope. His smaller companion

had checked his fall.

This hair-raising exhibition was part of the training a new climber was taking. The deliberate fall was intended to give him the confidence of knowing that in an emergency his companion could save his life. In this case the instructor weighed

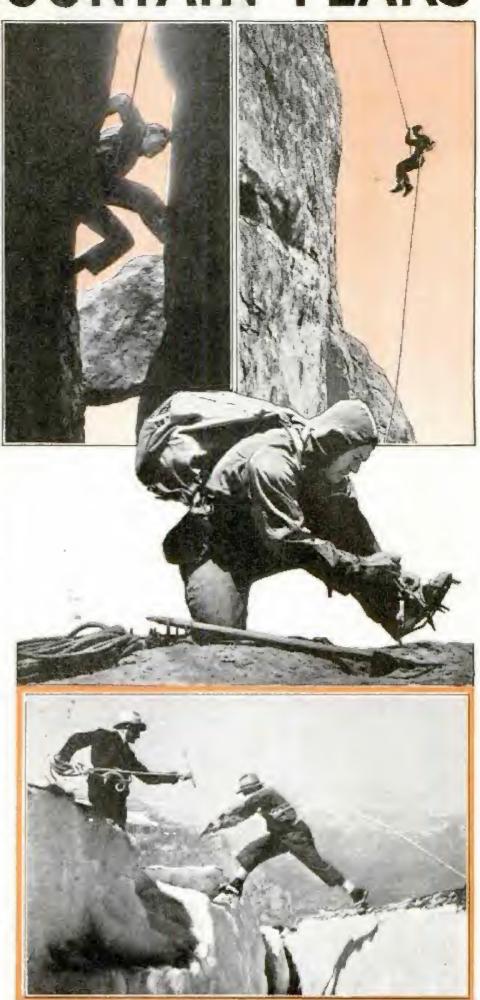
of the MOUNTAIN PEAKS





are being conquered one after another. Last year Shiprock in New Mexico and Monument Peak in California, two pinnacles that turned back expedition after expedition, were finally ascended by members of the Sierra Club of California.

Height alone is no handicap and 14,496-foot Mount Whitney, the highest point in the United States, is regarded simply as a training ground by skilled mountaineers. One of the worst climbs remaining is the comparatively low Lost Arrow









Peak in Yosemite Valley. The slender spire is only 1,500 feet high but its excessive steepness and smoothness and lack of holds have baffled every expedition that has tried to reach its top.

Advanced mountaineering is one of the most dangerous sports in the world when the climbers are inexperienced or overconfident. Even though many of the risks can be overcome, such hazards as avalanches or sudden blizzards can still cause disaster. To keep their sport as safe as possible new members of the Sierra Club are taught step by step. Practice climbs are held until the students gain experience. The result is that no member of the club

has been killed while using modem technique, even though many ascents have been made that compare in technical obstacles with severe European climbs.

But many of the daring climbers have had close calls and all of them have had anxious moments. Take the climb of Monument Peak that was made by John D. Mendenhall, Mrs. Mendenhall, Arthur B. Johnson, and Paul Estes, four of the most experienced climbers in the country. As in all dangerous climbs, they were roped together. Each wore rubber-soled shoes and carried first-aid kits, flashlights, and food. In addition each wore a climbing hammer on a sling

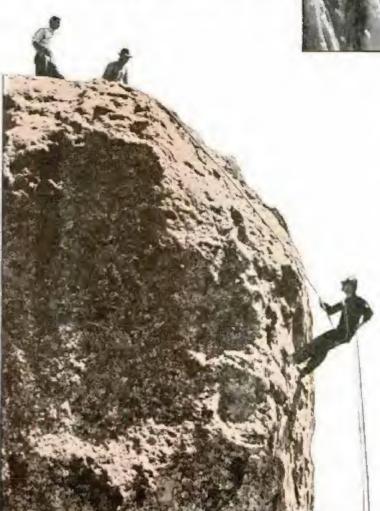


Top, left, technique employed where crack is too narrow to jam into and walls are devoid of projections. This is very strenuous. Center, standing shoulder belay aiding climber. Right, descending cliff on rope anchored above. Bottom, descending overhang, with nothing but thin air helpw

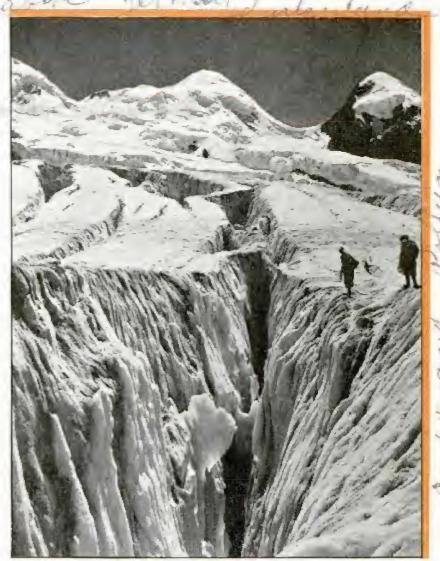
and carried pitons, short heavy spikes with an eye at the outer end that are driven into cracks in the rock, and carabiners, snap rings that can be passed around the rope and attached to the pitons. For some difficult climbs holes have to be drilled into the rock and expansion eye bolts set into the rock before the leader can move forward.

In making a dangerous pitch the leader works his way forward alone while the second man protects him by belaying the rope around his body and standing braced so as to take the strain if the leader slips and falls. When the leader can find a crack he drives in a piton and snaps his rope to it with a carabiner. Then if he slips his fall will be shorter and the strain on his companion will be less.

Reaching the end of his



Top, climbers on glacier in Switzerland. Bottom, controlling descent speed by tension of left hand. Loose grasp of right hand prevents tipping backward



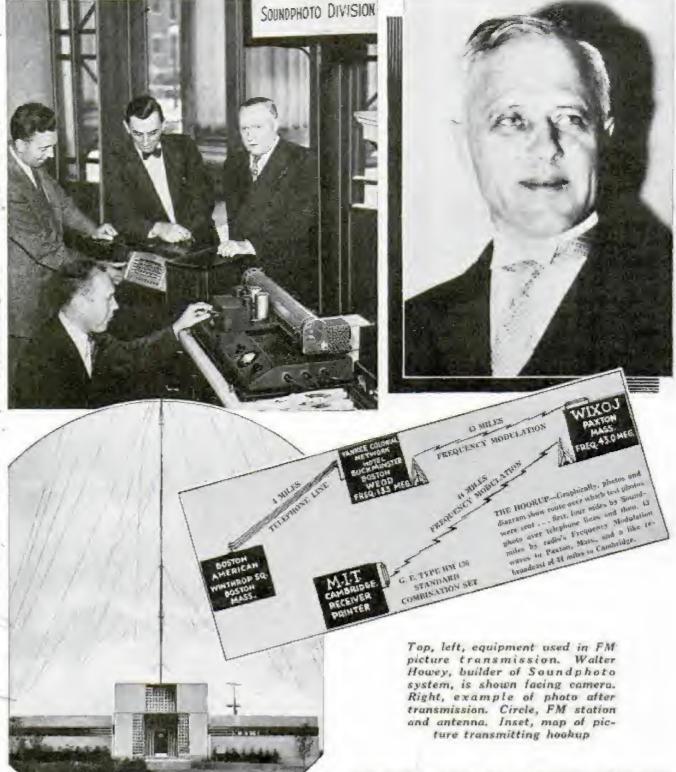
slack, the leader belays and protects the second man as he makes his way forward or upward. In high-angle climbing only one member at a time is on the move.

Clinging precariously to a wall, one false move can bring disaster. Smooth teamwork and immediate execution of every command are vital. If the leader is delicately balanced on a small projection the weight of too much rope alone may pull him over. Too little rope may trip his body when he moves. Occasionally the leader may lean out against the pull of the rope to reach a hold and the second man must feed the rope to him slowly and surely. On a dangerous pitch every member of the climbing crew is under a steady tension.

On the Monument Peak ascent two hours were needed to climb one difficult stretch of forty feet. Reasons why the mountain had never been climbed before are that it is composed of disintegrating volcanic breccia and the upper 360 feet of its spire are practically vertical. Every hand and foothold had to be tapped to sound out the rock. Once while Mrs. Mendenhall was

(Continued to page 126A)

Photos Are Transmitted by FM Radio System



Transmission of photographs by the Armstrong frequency modulation radio system has been accomplished, with almost perfect fidelity of reproduction. A Soundphoto system, built for International News Photos by Walter Howey, was employed in transmitting and receiving the pictures. The Howey equipment has amplitudes of carrier wave ranging from barely enough

signal to register on a sensitive voltmeter, which might correspond with black or absence of light in the photograph, to about eight-tenths volt, corresponding with the highlights or white of a picture. No more current than the load of a common telephone line is propagated. A twenty-five watt mobile transmitter is being built for International to enable reporters to telephone stories by frequency modulation radio, and photographers to transmit pictures by the same system. The mobile FM transmitter will have a range of twelve to

POPULAR MECHANICS

fifteen miles at ground level and about forty-five miles if transmitter or receiver is elevated 500 feet. Time of shooting, developing, transmitting, receiving and engraving a photo has been cut by this method to approximately forty minutes, about one-third that originally required. The test transmission by FM radio was accomplished over a four-mile telephone line to the Yankee Network's Boston station WEOD, thence by FM to WIXOJ, at Paxton, Mass., then, to a receiver at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at Cambridge—a distance of ninety-one miles, eighty-seven of which were covered by FM signals.

Gauge Shows Soil Moisture around Roots of Plant

As a guide for watering house plants, window boxes and seed flats, a moisture gauge has been offered. Made of aluminum, it has a perforated prong containing a



Thrust into the soil, the gauge shows whether the plants need more water

moisture-sensitive material which, contracting or expanding according to the degree of dampness, actuates an indicator showing when the plants need water and just how much they should be given.

Small Track-Type Tractor Driven by Gasoline Engine

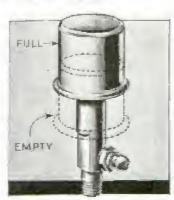


Young driver pauses to permit comparison of his gas-powered model with huge Diesel tractor which is driven by his father

Probably the smallest working Caterpillar track-type tractor with the youngest owner, is the one-and-one-half-horsepower model driven by a three-year-old boy of Bolivar county, Miss. More than a mere toy, the tractor is capable of doing work such as pulling his playmates' wagons, hauling him from place to place, and performing other useful jobs. It has a top speed of two miles an hour, being steered in the regular track-type manner, and having clutches to stop the flow of power from the single-cylinder gasoline engine to the tracks. The transmission, with both forward and reverse speeds, is a miscellaneous assortment of gears, the rear axle comes from a miniature automobile, and the tractor has an electric starting motor and electric lights.

Spring in Grease Cup Feeds Lubricant Loaded by a Pressure Gun

Filled through its stem by a pressure gun, a selffeeding grease cup gradually delivers the lubricant by means of a spring inside the cup. Thus it acts as its own indicator, the cup being up when filled, down when it is empty. To accommodate it to various types of greases and back



pressure of various bearings, the spring can be changed easily, and there is a shut-off valve in the stem to prevent damage to the cup from a high-pressure grease gun.

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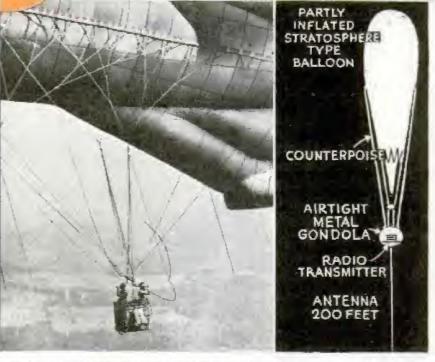
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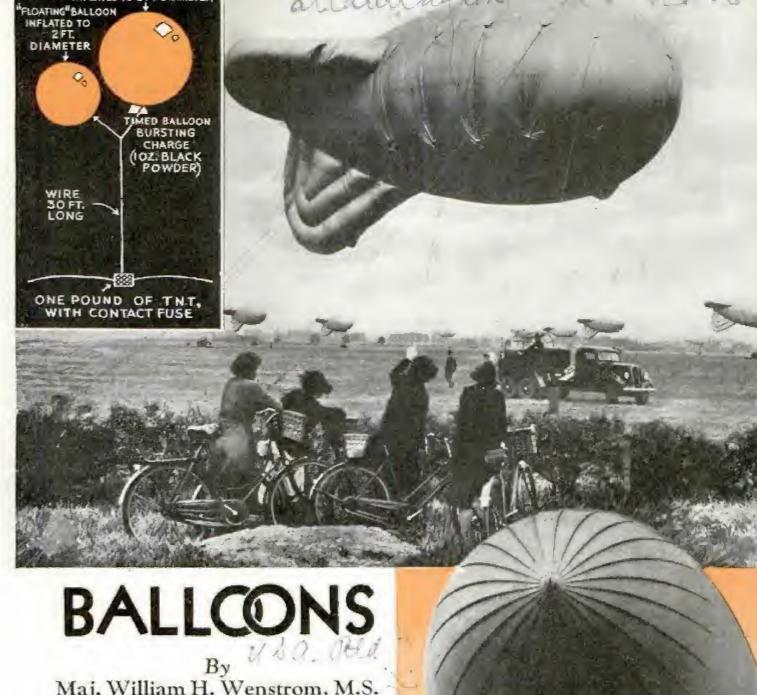
NEW TASKS for WAR



Top, left, U. S. Navy blimp lowering rubber boat in rescue demonstration. Right, Swiss balloon of type to be employed in forming aerial ring around nation's borders. Below, left, observers in balloon basket. Right, design for balloon to broadcast propaganda from stratosphere

BALLOONS, lifted by hot air, coal gas, or hydrogen, manned or unmanned, captive or free, have been used in warfare for more than a hundred years.

In the first World War of 1914-18, the skies above the western front were full of large, sausage-shaped, captive kite balloons, carrying observers for long-range artillery. These balloons, hydrogen-filled and flying from a steel cable at 3,000 to 5,000 feet, were attractive but dangerous targets for the fighter-airplane pilots of those days-attractive because they would burst into great gobs of orange flame when pierced by tracer bullets, dangerous because they



Maj. William H. Wenstrom, M.S.

were usually protected by nests of antiaircraft guns and interceptor fighters.

Modern American military observation balloons are, fortunately for the observers who man them, filled with non-inflammable helium. For Americans, who own most of the world's helium supply, the old-time hydrogen holocausts are a thing of the past. Nevertheless, military kite balloons are still notorious for their rough-riding qualities in a wind. Another outstanding American balloon improvement is the motorized observation balloon, which cruises like a "blimp" under its own power to the observation station. Upon arrival there, the motor gondola is replaced by the standand observation basket, and balloon and observers are let up on a cable.

A recent development in captive kite balloons is the British balloon barrage.



Top, one of England's barrage balloons. Inset, design for a constant altitude aerial mine. Below, U. S. Navy blimp begins trial flight

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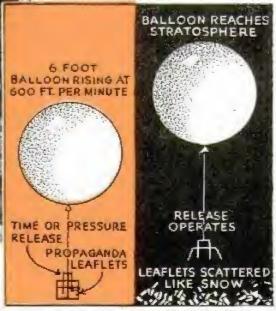
BAA 600

Top, balloon used in London's defense. Center, navy blimp refuels at sea. Bottom, left, rare view of German balloon being hauled from hangar for ascent. Right, small balloon for carrying propaganda leaflets

Each standard barrage balloon is a bag of aluminumpainted silk, teardrop shaped, and perhaps fifty feet long, which flies from a thin but strong steel cable, heading into the wind. Ordinarily no men go aloft with the bag. Usually the balloon flies at about 3,000 feet altitude, but there is cable enough on the winch to let it up more than two miles if desired. The cable can be electrically charged, but as the wire itself would shear a wing off any high-speed bomber or attack plane striking it, or otherwise destroy the plane, the electrical feature is rather superfluous.

As I sailed for home from London in August, 1939, two weeks before Europe was plunged into war, more than one hundred of these barrage balloons were flying over the city. Most of them were anchored to winch trucks in the city's open parks, but a few of them flew from barges in the lower Thames river.

Five hundred steel cables stretching upward from a ten-mile square of ground constitute a formidable sky forest from an airman's view-point. Of course, many of the enemy bombers might well be above the balloons, but many of their accompanying,



low-flying attack planes, to say nothing of low-flying "sneak bombers," would be caught and destroyed. And in poor visibility and bad weather, when the enemy is most likely to attempt a "blind" raid, this forest of steel cables would be a terrific mental hazard for every enemy pilot.

The greatest and most spectacular free balloon ever seen was the National Geographic Society's "Explorer II," in which Captains Stevens and Anderson of the U. S. Army ascended in 1935 from the Black Hills of North Dakota. They reached an all-time world's altitude record for aeronauts of nearly fourteen miles.

Less spectacular than the great man-carrying balloons, but cheap enough and simple enough to be within experimental reach of any American free-lance inventor, are pilot balloons and sounding balloons-hydrogen-filled spheres of thin rubber, a few feet in diameter, that will carry up various small devices weighing not more than a few pounds. These smaller sounding balloons, incidentally, really hold the world's "altitude, record" for man-made objectssomewhere around twenty-five miles—and probably will continue to hold it until the development of a workable sounding rocket.

The ordinary pilot balloon in universal use at most air-line terminals today is simply a thinrubber, hydrogen-filled sphere that starts with a diameter of about two and one-half feet. By day it is released alone; by night it carries aloft a small candle lantern or electric light. The released balloon, ordinarily inflated so as to rise at about 600 feet per minute, is sighted on by two theodolites located along a measured baseline on the ground (or by only one theodolite if the rise rate is accurately known). The successive plotted positions of the balloon, from minute to minute, give an accurate determination of upper winds at all levels. Data on

(Continued to page 130A)

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Three-Way Semi-Automatic Rifle Converts into a Machine Gun



From top to bottom—the rifle parts ready for assembling, loading a clip of shells, and firing the rifle like a pistol

So light and well balanced that it actually can be held like a pistol, a three-way weapon devised by the inventor of the Johnson semi-automatic rifle can be used as a single-shot rifle, a semi-automatic rifle or a machine gun. It is converted simply by flipping a thumb lever. Assembling the gun takes but a few minutes. To load it, a clip of five shells at a time is inserted in the magazine, or the magazine can be loaded before being placed in the gun. It weighs only twelve and one-half pounds. Disregarding the time required for changing the magazines, the gun can fire 200 shots per minute at a muzzle velocity of 2,700 feet per second. The barrel is interchangeable.

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Beach Smokers Given Light by Wooden 'Bathing Girls'



Smoker getting light from attractive "seaside lighting station," erected for fonvenience of bathers

Electric cigarette lighters held in the mouths of wooden figures of bathing girls are stationed on an Oregon beach where water and wind combine to make it difficult for bathers to use matches. Mounted at a convenient height, the lighter is operated by batteries behind the dummy.

Automatic Garden-Spray Mixer Attaches to Lawn Hose



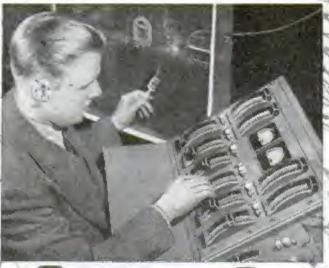
Garden and lawn sprays, either liquid or powder, are mixed uniformly with water in the desired proportion by an automatic sprayer operating through a connection with the faucet. After the tank is filled

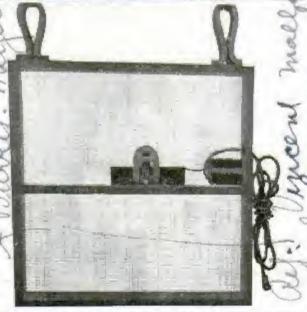
with the solution, the strength of the spray may be regulated by a dial with seven set-

tings, and an automatic shut-off stops the flow when the machine runs out of solution. The sprayer can be attached to a lawn sprinkler for beetle spraying, or used with the ordinary nozzle for disinfecting kennels, stables and other breeding places for pests, and will help in doing away with weeds on tennis courts and driveways, in addition to fighting tree and plant pests.

"Thunder Screen" for the Stage Imitates Gunfire or Crash

With an ordinary piece of window screen connected to a loud speaker and an electric sound console, engineers at Stevens Institute of Technology have produced a "thunder screen" with an amazing repertoire of sound effects for the theatrical stage. In stead of the old-fashioned rawhide thunder drums behind the scenes, the sound-effects man strikes the wire screen and then produces distant thunder by amplifying and controlling the vibrations. Sounds of ma-



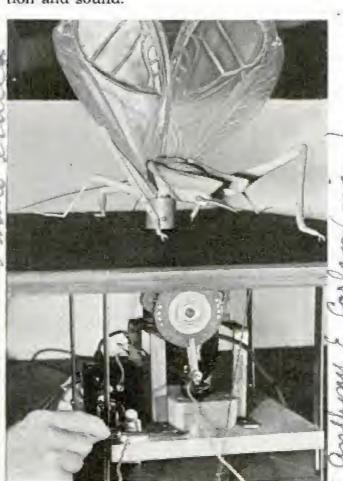


Stroking a brush on the "thunder screen," soundeffects man manipulates switch amplifying the sound

chine-gun fire are heard as a stylus is slowly drawn across the screen with the proper tempo. A quick motion of the stylus gives the effect of the tearing of a heavy fabric—an airplane wing or a sail. The tap of a covered mallet, cut off after the first contact, sounds like cannon fire. Elaborate controls in the electrical console and practice in their use enable the operator to produce a great variety of effects.

Cricket Wired for Sound Effects Chirps to Museum Visitors

Museums are taking a tip from the movies and adding sound effects to their animated exhibits. At the San Diego Museum of Natural History there is a singing cricket, a big mechanical fellow wired for sound. A small fan motor under the exhibit oscillates the wings exactly as they move in nature, and at the same time turns a hidden disk with contact points which actuate an electric buzzer simulating the cricket's chirp as the wing edges rub together. In another exhibit a red diamond rattlesnake shakes its rattle with realism that produces cold shivers in the visitor. who presses a button to produce the motion and sound.



Mechanical cricket oscillates wings and chirps when a museum visitor presses button to animate exhibit

"Dustpan" Wheelbarrow Loads and Dumps Itself



Stepping on bar at rear of wheelbarrow tilts the pan's forward and dumps its load

Built like a dustpan on wheels, a doughnut-tired wheelbarrow does most of the work of loading and dumping itself. To pick up a load from a pile of coal, sand or rock, the pan is laid flat on the ground and shoved into the pile. At the rear is a spring-type bar which, depressed by a foot, tilts the pan forward and dumps the load.

"Three-Dimension" Clock Face Is Read from Any Angle

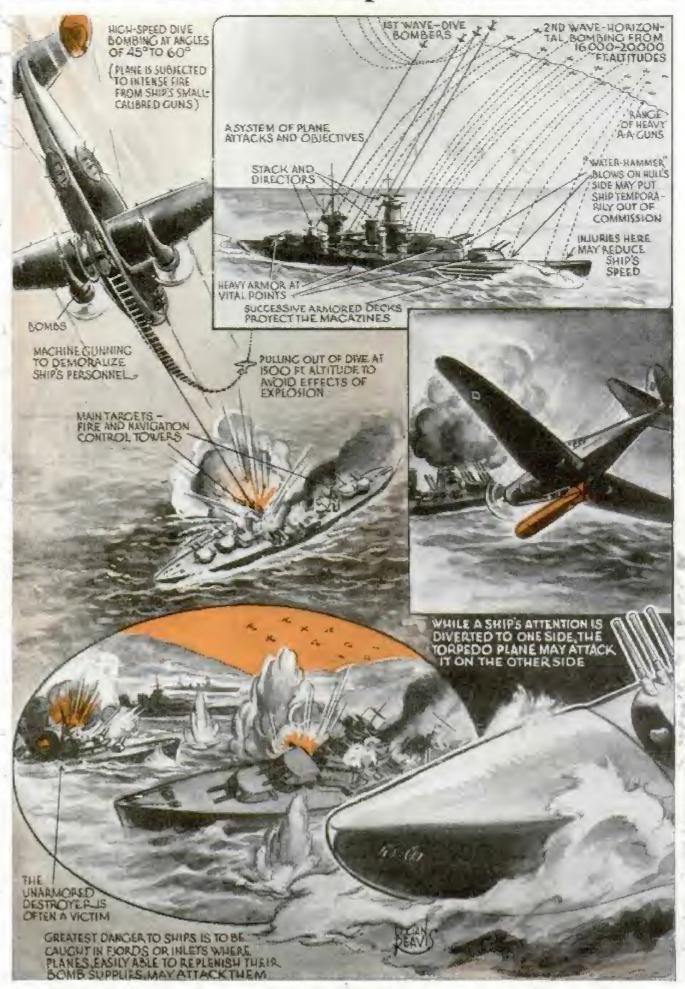
You can tell time from any angle with the "three-dimensional" clock patented recently. To save the effort of getting up out of a chair or leaving an office desk to look at a clock inconveniently located, the inventor painted numerals on protruding triangles on the face



of the clock. The hands are bent at right angles so they can be read from the side.

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Bomber versus Battleship—Which Will Win?



Whether the bombing plane is superior to the battleship is the question raised by reported successes of air fleets attacking surface warcraft. Air-raiding methods are pictured on this page

How Ship Defends Itself Against Air Raiders



Navy men declare the capital fighting ship can stand off the bombing plane. On this page are illustrations of how a battleship, or group of them, can combat a swarm of attacking aircraft

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Gamma Rays Smash Atoms to Release Pent-Up Energy



Target end of atom smasher contains uranium in chamber below observer's hand. Oscilloscope and the screen are at the right

One more avenue for investigating atomic power has been opened by the discovery, at Westinghouse research laboratories, of the ability of gamma rays

to split the heavy uranium atoms into two equal parts, thus releasing the energy that holds them together. It is said that the energy from one atom, amounting to about 200,000,000 electron volts, remains approximately the same whether neutrons, hitherto the only known means of disintegrating the uranium atom, or gamma rays are used. Since one atom of carbon in coal releases only four electron volts when burned with two atoms of oxygen-which is what happens on a greatly magnified scale in your home heating plant-it is apparent that if uranium atoms could be used their energy would be some 50,000,000 times as great as the coal and oxygen atoms. But unfortunately science is still far from achieving the release of atomic energy in usable quantities. Gamma rays are produced in the ninety-five-ton Westinghouse atom smasher by striking a target of fluorite with protons, hearts of hydrogen atoms, which are hurled down a forty-foot vacuum tube by a force of 1,000,000 to 3,000,000 volts. Some of these gamma rays enter an ionization chamber placed four inches from the fluorite target, where they penetrate a uranium target about the size of a silver dollar. Every time a uranium atom splits, the released energy sends out an electric pulse that causes a sharp rise in an electron beam moving in an oscilloscope, a trace being made on a near-by screen which is excited by an electron beam.

Shovel's Electric "Feeler" Warns of Hidden Pipe

To eliminate hand digging where location of underground pipes is uncertain, an electric "feeler" signals when the scoop of an excavator approaches a hidden pipe or other metal objects. Sound comes from either a loud speaker or earphones operated by the excavator's own battery. To indicate that the device is in operation a sound is audible at all times, but it becomes increasingly louder as the shovel approaches the pipe. A dial adjusts the unit for different types of soil, and the feeler can be used independently as an underground metal finder.



Steam shovel operator hears loud signal from headphones or loud speaker when shovel nears metal pipe

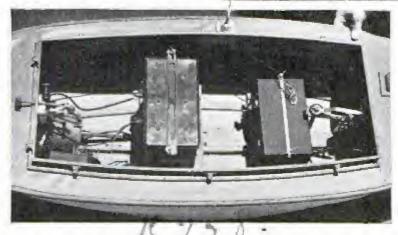
POPULAR MECHANICS

RadioControlsModelBoatCarryingExplosive

Radio-controlled torpedo boats driven silently toward enemy ships by a battery-operated propeller are suggested by U. S. Naval Reserve officer who has built a sixfoot power boat that is started, steered and stopped by high-frequency signals. A storage battery propels the boat at five miles an hour. Lieut. Henry W. Wickes, stationed at Floyd Bennett field in Brooklyn, has navigated his "crewless torpedo boat" by radio from a distance as great as eleven miles. In actual war operations a radiocontrolled boat, loaded with explosives or with a torpedo at its bow, might be directed against an enemy warship, blowing it up as it collides with the hull. It could be guided by a transmitter on shore, in another ship or even in an airplane overhead.







At top, the radio operator on the pier guides the tiny boat with his high-frequency radio transmitter. Below, the model simulates a wartime attack, crashing into an "enemy" vessel while carrying explosives in its bow. At left, the storage-battery "engine" and radio receiving set

100,000 Stars for Every Person within Range of Biggest Telescope

If all the stars within sight of the world's largest telescope were divided equally, there probably would be hundreds of thousands for every living person, according to an estimate given by Dr. Edwin Hubble, Carnegie Institution astronomer. He said that the equivalent of eight quadrillion suns send light from distant universes, or star groups comparable to our Milky Way,

the remotest of which are detected only faintly with the 100-inch telescope at Mt. Wilson, Calif. That would mean about 2,000,000 suns per person, but not that many-stars, for the sun, which was used as a yardstick for the computation, is much smaller than many stars. Allowing for the extra size of larger stars still leaves an almost unbelievable number.

остовек, 1940 Разадама.

FREIGHT TRAINS of the







Strange cargo on the highway: Top, 100-ton transformer; bottom, a motorboat. In circle, making fast a load of merchandise. Center, experienced drivers handle big "freighters" easily in traffic like this

ROLLING southward along the broad, fourlane highway, two hours and twenty minutes out of its Hoboken terminal, tractor No. 141 pulling a twentytwo-foot trailer of mixed cargo on the fast overnight freight run to Baltimore is right on time. It is almost midnight. Across the river, clusters of street lights appear. Driver Eddie Lewis takes a look at his watch. "Philadelphia on the nose," he says. "Ten-minute layover for coffee."

Fifteen minutes later, the blunt, powerful nose of No. 141 is again heading south, eating up the miles. In the log book the short stopover has been dutifully recorded together with every detail of operation thus far on the trip.

This entry in the log book is significant of the careful, scientific attention to detail which goes into the operation of the modern freighter of the highways. During the past five years, research and automotive engineers, scientists and traffic experts have



Top, heavy-duty trailer takes on the first of two statues that made a thirty-five-ton load. Center, hooking up brakes between tractor and trailer. Bottom, transcontinental caravan starts from Chicago at night

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be kept busy in various ways after it reached its terminal.

Right now, seated in the warm, comfortable cab of No. 141, Lewis is occupied with the task of keeping to schedule. And in operating the powerful eight-foot tractor, pulling its heavy load, he also works more gadgets, obeys more rules and shows a great deal more road courtesy and etiquette than do millions of passenger-car drivers.

He has three mirrors mounted on his mudguard, each fitted with a different type glass so that he can keep a watch on cars at various distances behind him. He has many signal lights and must make sure that all are operating. In addition to headlights, there are three lights on top of the cab, one on each side of the top, two on the body, two red lights on the top rear of the

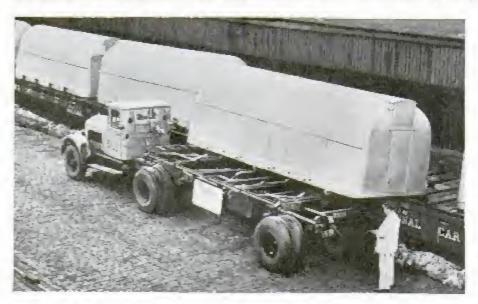
trailer, three on the bottom, a tail-light and arrow signal lights which signify his intention to turn. He watches his booster or his air brakes and with a five-speed gear shift, he carefully gauges each hill on the road, making rapid calculations as to the advisability of increasing or decreasing speed to ease the pull on the trailer.

To be an expert driver of a fast freighter, he has to do all these things in addition to steering, shifting and feeding the gasoline which, to a passenger-car operator often sums up "driving." Also he keeps "working" his headlights, giving signals to other freight drivers on the road.

"Every driver on an overnight run knows the signals and by 'breaking' our headlights we help each other out," says Lewis. "I guess that is one reason why there are so few accidents among the driv-

ers of the big freighters. Take this big fellow coming up on the inside lane. He's 'got his wind up' and wants to pass us. He's breaking his lights to tell us so. We almost never use a horn. The other fellow can't hear it above the roar of his motor.

"Now he's past and in the clear. I break my lights. That's an 'all clear' signal that lets him know he's far enough ahead to cut in ahead of us. Now that winking tail-light of his means 'thanks, pal.' You don't see that kind of



Upper left, a truck tilts its nose to lower rear end for loading heavy machinery; right, 2,400-gallon tankers on the road. Bottom, demountable milk tanks shift from trailer to rail car under push-button control

courtesy and helpfulness among most passenger-car drivers. If you did, there would be a lot less accidents." There are a lot of other ways in which the fast overnight freight drivers help each other. All of them have an intense pride in keeping to schedule and, like sailors obeying the rules of the sea, they will respond quickly to an SOS.

"Most of the big freighter outfits have wreckers constantly patrolling the roads," says Eddie. "My own concern among them. There's one working north to Hoboken and another south to Baltimore, right now. They report byphone to the terminals every thir-

tv minutes.

"If anything should happen to this tractor-trailer, a punctured tire or engine trouble for example, I'd get to the side of the road as fast as possible and set out my flares. The law requires three of them, ten feet apart. Within a few minutes a freighter coming along in either direction would break his lights and I'd give him the return signal. No matter what outfit he belonged to, he'd hurry to the nearest phone and call my terminal, telling them I was in trouble. In a half hour a wrecker if necessary, a new tractor."

That is one reason why, no matter what the weather, the freighters maintain their schedules. Butthere is a lot more to it than that according to Joseph Coughlin, operations manager of the Hoboken depot of W. T. Cowan, Inc., one of the largest freighter fleets in the

East, and Eddie's chief.

"Modern manufacturing plants and businesses in cities 300 miles or more apart are so dependent upon a day-to-day exchange of material ranging from raw supplies to finished products that the fast, overnight freighter of the highway has become a vital link in making this possible," says Mr. Coughlin.

"As a result the trucking busi-(Continued to page 116A)

Movie Screen on a Traveling Van Carries Message to Public



Pedestrians in English city watch a movie on rear screen of a government cinema truck as it brings a message to the public

Taking the road throughout England to carry inwould be speeding toward us, or, formation to the people are fifteen big trucks equipped with movie screens. At each stop, the publicity movie concerning Britain's national savings campaign is flashed on the rear-end screen.

Glasses for the Color-Blind Driver Distinguish Traffic Lights



Some color-blind motorists are in constant danger due to their inability to distinguish between red and green traffic lights. To overcome this handicap a special type of glasses has been introduced, with upper segments of dark red glass to filter out the green lights. Thus the

"change" light and the red "stop" light are the only traffic signals the driver sees and if either is visible he stops. If no light is visible it means go ahead.

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Portable Smelter Works Ore Right at the Mine

Below is the lightweight, portable smelter which can be set up at a mine and put in operation within an hour. At the right, drawing molten metal into bucket, and some bars of bullion produced by the smelter







Ore is turned into bullion right at the mine by a portable smelter that, by "cutting corners," promises to open up new sources of important minerals and save both time and labor in their recovery. The smelter weighs less than a ton and can be set up at location in an hour. Then, instead of concentrating the ore for shipment to a smelter—which requires water not al-

ways available in the neighborhood of the mine —it is smelted on the spot and the bars of bullion shipped to the refinery. One feature of the invention is an air-circulation system that takes advantage of the earth's rotation. Gases in the northern hemisphere tend to swirl counterclockwise. By fanning air in the smelter in a clockwise direction, opposing forces are set up which cause gases heavier than air to settle to the bottom of the furnace, allowing maximum reduction of the ore.

A two-horsepower motor circulates the air. When in operation, the smelter uses only 150 gallons of water in twenty-four hours, and one ton of coke to every ten tons of ore, working a ton of ore per hour. The furnace reaches a temperature of 3,750 degrees. Any kind of ore can be smelted, the molten metal being poured into cone-shaped buckets and then dumped to cool.

Super-Sharp Camera Lens Sees Details from Altitude of Three Miles

Flying at great heights where there is less exposure to anti-aircraft fire, observation planes using a new lens announced by Bausch and Lomb Optical company are

able to photograph enemy positions with exceptional detail. From a height of three miles, it is said, the lens will take pictures so sharp that objects such as motorcycle

POPULAR MECHANICS

Liera nd Odern

troops are identified easily over an area of twenty-eight square miles. Even railroad ties can be counted within a patch of three square miles directly below the plane. The photographs are eighteen inches square. A plane with the new lens covering a field of ninety degrees, the manufacturer declares, could photograph fortifications, plants or concentrations without flying over them.

Cart for Heavy Golf Bag Carries 300 Pounds

Some of the cumbersome golf bags are now making the rounds of fairways on two-wheeled carts, instead of on the backs of players and caddies. With a minimum of effort the sturdy cart will carry loads up to 300 pounds, holding the bag and clubs in position on a chromium-plated base. The strong tubular frame rides on fourteeninch bicycle-type wheels, guided by a handle with rubber grip. The bag is held upright by straps at top and bottom.



Small cart totes bag loaded with clubs to lighten the burden of caddy or golfer

OCTOBER, 1940

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Spoon with Remote Control Teaches Baby How to Eat

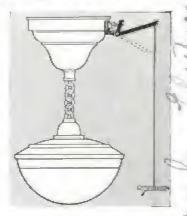


Baby feeder with two spoons helps mother train tiny hands in proper use of spoon, a mirror enabling her to watch progress

Babies learn to handle a spoon with the aid of a new trainer that is controlled remotely by the mother as she feeds herself. An inverted U-shaped frame has a spoon attached at each of the lower ends, one for mother and one for the baby, enabling mother to guide the baby's spoon. Baby's progress can be watched in a mirror. A counterbalance for the frame helps stabilize its up and down motions.

Extension Arm for Ceiling-Light Fixture Holds Cord Beyond Edge of Globe

To relieve ceiling light fixtures of repeated jarring where pull cords rest against the globes, an extension pull arm reaching beyond the edge of the globe is available for operating the switch. One design works with canopytype fixtures and another with holder-receptacles.



567

KEEPING TAB



TOTAL ECLIPSE AT

WITHIN

A PARTIAL

WHEN the sun goes on a rampage, as it did last Easter week, confusion prevails on earth. Teletype machines write meaningless chatter and telegraph and telephone lines roar with static. Long-distance radio fails. Wire photo machines draw black lines instead of pictures. Continents lose touch with each other, sometimes for hours. Even cities a thousand miles apart are apt to be isolated.

The sun is not the stately, dependable body that one might assume. "Cold," cyclonic storms called sunspots, some large enough to engulf the earth, spread and die on it. Tremendous clouds of flaming gas hover

above its glowing surface. Eruptions of incandescent hydrogen burst forth. Occasionally tongues of flame spurt 100,000 miles or so beyond its atmosphere.

The sunspots shoot out streams of electrified particles and when the earth is in the path of one of these streams, as was the case last spring, the earth's magnetic Upper left, refracting telescope at Griffith observatory, Los Angeles. Right, artificial eclipse of sun made at Mt. Wilson observatory shows prominences of incandescent gas flaming above solar atmosphere. Left, diagram of eclipse. Below, Juniper, Mars, Earth, Venus and Mercury

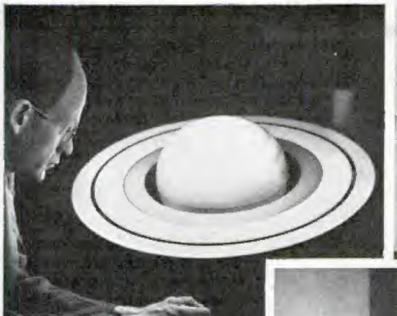


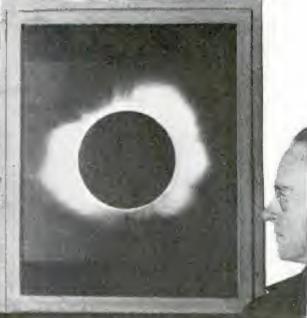
B-C

field is unbalanced. Brilliant auroral displays and general confusion in all kinds of long-distance communication systems follow. Earth currents up to several hundred volts surge over the lines, fusing delicate relay instruments.

During the last decade such solar disturbances have been more troublesome

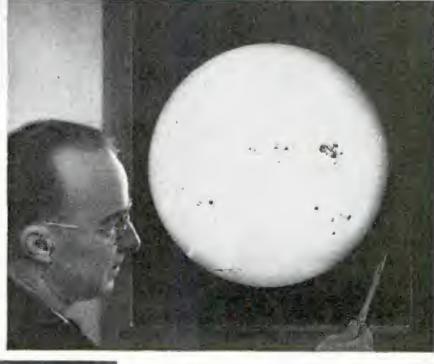
on the SUN





than previously, not because storms on the sun have increased in intensity but because our use of electrical circuits that are affected by solar activity has increased.

The chromospheric eruptions of hydrogen on the sun likewise affect communica-





Top, left, model of Saturn; right, sun at full eclipse showing corona. Center, photo of sun showing sunspots. Below, masking sun to photograph artificial eclipse

tion. Apparently great quantities of ultraviolet light are radiated during an eruption and these rays influence the ionosphere surrounding the earth, preventing the reflection of high-frequency radio signals and making long-distance radio communication impossible. Often these eruptions are associated with sunspots. The magnetic storms caused by sunspots affect all parts of the earth, . while the fading radio signals that are caused by the cruptions occur only over the lighted portion of the globe.

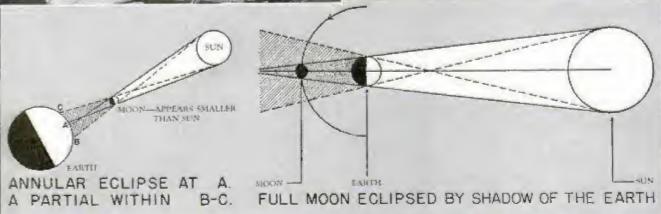
The earth's average temperature appears to be a half degree lower during maximum sunspot periods than when sunspots are at a minimum, but this has no real effect on weather or the grow-

ing of crops.



fully some of the electrical disturbances produced on the earth. Ordinarily the sun's blinding light prevents direct examination of its atmosphere and its corona. These can be studied best during a total eclipse. The total eclipse that occurs October 1, visible from a band extending across South America, the Atlantic, and the tip of Africa, will be observed by various expeditions. Photographs made during the total eclipse, it is hoped, will also help determine more accurately the state of the elements in the solar atmosphere and how they behave in the tremendous heat and electromagnetic field of the sun.

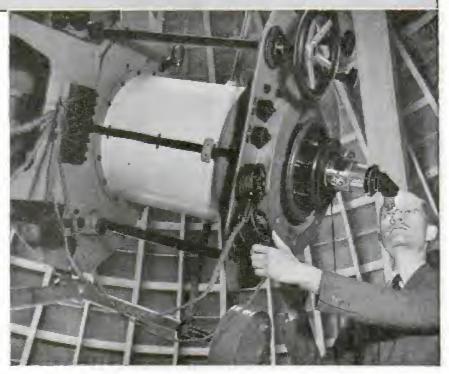
Earlier this year, on April 7, an annular eclipse was observed from points in the southern states and northern Mexico. In an annular eclipse the moon is a little too far away from the earth to



"Beliefs that sunspots indicate changes in solar radiation that in turn changes the air we breathe and influences our physiological and psychological behavior have no more scientific basis than the supposition that our lives are regulated by the conjunction of the planets," states Dr. Seth B. Nicholson of the Mount Wilson observatory of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

This year two eclipses of

This year two eclipses of the sun are affording astronomers more opportunity than usual to study the sun's atmosphere. More knowledge about the gaseous envelope that surrounds the sun may help explain more



Top, the magnetometer: tiny magnet swings when earth's magnetic lines of force are disturbed, causing light beam to trace pattern on paper. Center, diagrams of eclipses. Bottom, astronomer watching planet keeps telescope trained by means of electric switch

hide the sun completely and a thin ring of sunshine around the dark moon is visible. Such an eclipse is beautiful, but even the smallest amount of direct light is too much to permit most kinds of solar eclipse observations. This year study was made of the effects of this partial blackout on radio signals. A joint expedition comprising several groups of scientists transmitted short-wave radio signals upward to the earth's ionosphere and measured the time lag in the reflected signals to determine the shifts that took place in the reflecting layer during the eclipse and after it.

Instead of only two eclipses, astronomers are actually observing hundreds of eclipses of the sunthis year. Natural eclipses are too rare to satisfy the scientists so the sun is eclipsed artificially every clear day in solar observatories. A metal disk just large enough to cover the sun's image is placed in the optical train of the solar telescope, and photographs are made of the prominences of flares projecting from the sun's atmosphere.

The universe is full of light from the myriads of stars and it is also full of shadows. Just like the moon, the earth and all the other planets cast shadows in the sunlight. Under favorable conditions it is possible to see the shadow the earth casts, low in the eastern sky during and just after sunset, where it appears as a hazy bluish are bordered by a faint rosy hue. Shadows cast by the other planets are usually invisible because of the lack of gas and dust in interplanetary space.

The moon eclipses a great many stars in its course across the sky, and recently these occultations have been used as a means of measuring star diameters. No telescope is powerful enough to reveal any star except the sun as a disk, hence measurements of star diameters have to be made by roundabout methods. The latest way is to measure the small frac-

(Continued to page 118A)

Automobile Skylight Gives View of Mountain Scenery



Driver and passenger have wide view of scenery overhead from auto equipped with transparent roof for mountain sightseeing

So that he and his friends may enjoy fully the mountain scenery in the southwest, a motorist of Pasadena, Calif., has replaced the conventional top of his automobile with a transparent one. The "skylight" is made of plates of safety glass tightly sealed in place, making the top stormproof.

Motor Truck Spins Airplane Propeller to Start Balky Engine

When airplane engine starters fail to work, a truck is often used as an emergency starter at the U.S. Naval Reserve aviation base at Floyd Bennett field. A twenty-five foot cable rope fastened to the



Truck helps start stubbarn plane engine by furning propeller with cable attached to mitten that slips on and off blade easily

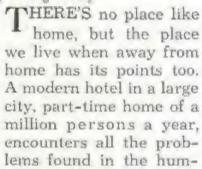
truck's rear bumper is attached to a special "mitten" that slips over the propeller blade. To spin the propeller and thus turn the engine over, the truck pulls ahead quickly and the mitten slides off the propeller tip at the end of the tug.

HOME WAS NEVER









blest cottage, multiplies them by a thousand or so, and solves them with streamlined efficiency.

Imagine being host to from 2,000 to 4,000 guests a day. There are always that many registered at any one of New York's largest hotels, with two to three thousand employes to serve them. At least 5,000 visitors drop in daily for a meal or chat. That crowd would equal the population of a good-sized little city. The biggest hotels serve 12,000 meals a day. It takes a lot of food to be ready for such a crowd, and hundreds of tons of ice daily just to keep it in a fresh condition.



New arrivals, top, are shown to suite by bell boy. Suit to be cleaned is placed with laundry (lower left) in compartment of door. Right, information clerks tell you if the John Smiths of Dubuque are registered

They freeze their own ice.
Some of it, chopped by a machine which macerates an entire 300-pound cake at a time, is served on the table with oysters, grapefruit or wines. Air is circulated through other cakes to keep them crystal clear; then a machine containing rows of revolving saws cuts the cakes into cubes for your glass of water or iced beverage.

One of the world's largest hotels,

One of the world's largest hotels, located in New York, has four general kitchens to prepare food for its seven dining rooms, each of which has its own menu. Another kitchen specializes in preparing soup in fifty-gallon cauldrons. A bakeshop with ovens eighteen feet deep turns out 20,000 rolls, 700 loaves of bread, every day. But no pies or cakes or pastries—these are made in still another bakery. There is even an ice-cream chef with his special kitchen, turning out 400 gallons of frozen desserts.



Photos courtesy the Pennsylvania Hotel

Top, battery of pneumatic tubes in hotel's message center. In center, floor clerk's message transmitter. Bottom, a hotel telephone switchboard big enough for a small city—which a metropolitan hotel really is







There's nothing on your floor to blaze except the bedding and what you bring with you, but the hotel's own fire department (top) is ready for anything. Center, power plant for lights, machinery and elevators. Below, glasses are washed, hand dried and polished, sterilized and wrapped in Cellophane

Washing dishes is an endless chore. Each kitchen has its own power washer which handles only china. One man does nothing but remove scraps from dishes, another stacks them on an endless belt which carries them through three spray baths in the washer. The first bath, clear water under heavy pressure, removes all food particles. The second spray is soapy. The third bath is clear, so hot it is all but steam; the dishes emerge not only clean but dry.

Glassware is handled in similar machines, but is hand-dried and polished, then sterilized, after which the drinking glasses are wrapped in Cellophane. Silver is cleaned and polished in revolving

drums of sudsy shot.

This same hotel's laundry washes and irons sixty to seventy thousand pieces each day. A guest can arrive at midnight, have his clothes washed, his suit pressed, and arise at eight o'clock to find everything clean, stowed neatly in his bedroom door. The secret of speed is in drying. Water is forced from the washed clothes by centrifugal extractors, until they are just right for ironing. A battery of ironers turns out shirts two a minute. The first machine presses the collar, the next does the front. A third irons the back, while the sleeves are pressed and creased on heated metal arms. The last machine turns down the collar, irons the shoulders and cuffs, after, which any missing buttons are sewed on by another machine. A woman then touches up each shirt with a hand iron. After that they are folded on a gadget that does everything but think; then as pasteboard cover is slipped on.

One woman irons all socks by slipping them over a heated metal foot. There are four feet in a line; by the time she places a sock on the fourth, the first one is ready to come off. Socks having holes are darned on a machine in the time it would take you to thread a needle.

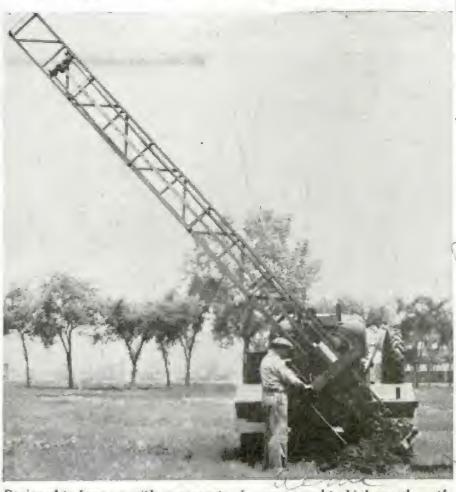
(Continued to page 120A)

POPULAR MECHANICS

Fast Earth-Borer Digs Tank Traps for Army

Valuable as both a defensive and offensive aid in modern blitzkrieg is the United States army's new "lightning borer" mounted at the rear of a heavy truck. It is designed to keep pace with a fast-moving army, quickly drilling holes in the earth for the placement of explosives in laying tank traps, in destroying roads, bridge foundations and railroads. Likewise it will speed up construction of temporary bridges and roads as well as foundations for artillery emplacements. An outgrowth of smaller drills used for digging holes for telephone poles, the machine can bore a hole twenty inches in diameter and six feet deep within three minutes, and the drill can go fifty feet

deep and be adjusted to dig holes as much as forty-two inches across. The drill can be operated at any angle up to forty-five



Designed to keep up with movements of army geared to high speed, earthboring trucks like this dig holes for defensive and offensive works

degrees. The power plant which operates the borer is a four-cylinder, forty-horsepower, water-cooled engine.

'Kiddy Trailer' Hitched to Bike Carries Child on Outings



Diminutive streamline trailers are used by one couple to take along children too small to pedal their own bikes on family-picnics. Each trailer is hooked to a bicycle by a gooseneck bar and towed along the road.

Children can tag along with parents to picnics in baby-size trailers that are easily towed over the highway by bicycles. A gooseneck bar between the bike and two-wheel cart makes a strong and sturdy hitch

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Basketwork of Steel Ribs Reinforces Pier for Bridge



Workmen seem to be clambering toward the top of a huge basket as they "weave" steel rods at Shasta dam in building pier for one of the bridges

Steel workers scaling the ribbed wall give the appearance of running a race to the top while they place the steel for a bridge pier that forms part of the structural work on Shasta

dam. The gigantic project, undertaken on the Sacramento river in California by the U.S. bureau of reclamation, includes twelve tunnels, eight bridges and thirty miles of railroad.

Robot Lookout on Forest Tower Reports Fire and Smoke

Constant, untiring watch for fire breaking out in forests is kept by a recently patented lookout that sends signals automatically by radio or wire to distant stations only when it detects both smoke and fire in the same locality, thus avoiding many false alarms. Rotating in a turret mounted on a tower high above the tree tops, the robot combines a photocell, or electric eye, that responds to a column of smoke rising within its range of vision, and a highly sensitive thermocouple to catch heat waves from a far-off blaze. Working together, these two "eyes" can detect and report the presence of fire and smoke, but they do not possess the ability to sense the actual location of a fire or the degree and direction of its spread,

Fast Post-Hole Drill Is Powered by a Tractor

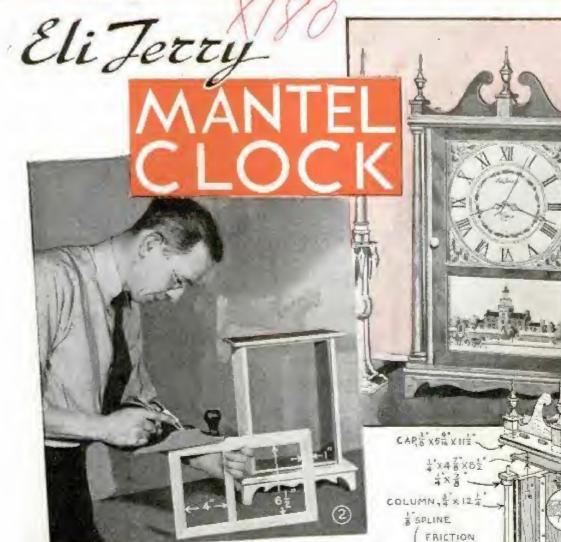
Power from a farm tractor operates a posthole digger that can drill a hole in ten seconds. Resembling somewhat a huge wood auger, the digger is attached easily to any tractor with a pówer take-off. It is attached to the rear of the tractor by a single bolt and can be set up ready for use or removed in less than one minute. The post-hole digger is the invention of an Oklahoma farmer.



Drill mounted at rear of tractor, taking power from the engine, is able to dig a post hole in ten seconds

POPULAR MECHANICS

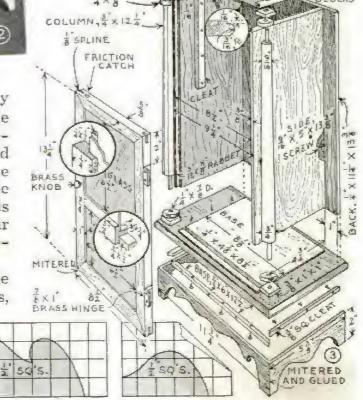


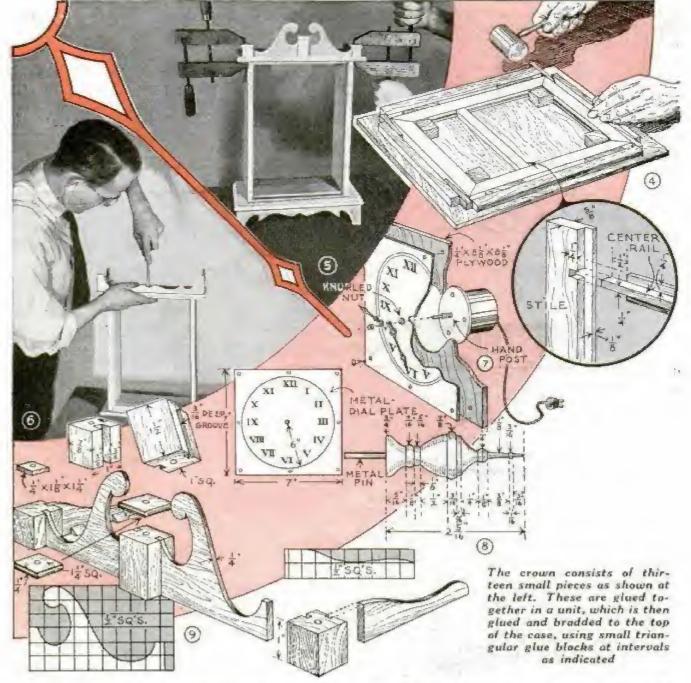


THIS modern adaptation of the Terry clock is just the thing to set off the mantel in any home, regardless of the furnishings. Eight-day movements of the old clocks required a large case, but with the compact electric movements of today, the case can be constructed in a size that is more attractive and better suited to our present small rooms. Fig. 1 shows the appearance of the finished clock.

In constructing the case, start with the side panels, which have rounded edges,

and rabbets along the front edges to house the door, Fig. 3. The base and cap have simple moldings worked





on their edges. Also, pieces having rabbeted edges are glued to the top of the base and the bottom of the cap. The framework is assembled with screws driven from the top and bottom respectively. The back butts against the rear edges of the side pieces, top and bottom, and fits under the cap and over the base piece. It also extends out 1 in. on either side.

The apron pieces are jigsawed to shape, after which cleats, drilled for screws, are glued to the backs of the apron pieces. In this manner both pieces are mitered at the same time. The apron is assembled with glue, and then screwed to the underside of the base by means of the cleats, as in Fig. 6.

The door frame is another mitering job. Splines in the corners add strength. The center rail is secured in place with a mortise-and-tenon joint of the type shown in

the circular detail of Fig. 4. Perhaps the simplest way to glue up the door, if special miter clamps are not available, is by the block-and-wedge method shown in Fig. 4. The frame is set over four blocks, and cleats and wedges are driven from all sides to put sufficient pressure on the corners. After the glue has dried, the frame should be fitted to the opening by careful planing, as in Fig. 2. Clear glass is used in the square opening over the dial, but the lower glass of the door should be decorated. Pasting a picture of some colonial scene serves very well, or a colored decalcomania may be used.

The pillars, blocks and disks are installed with dowels, which enter holes in the cap and base. The parts that make up the crown, Fig. 9, with the exception of the finials, are assembled as a unit before glu-

ing on the case. The method of clamping is shown in Fig. 5. The finials may be turned from wood or soft brass, Fig. 8. However, should you wish, finials of a suitable de-

sign may be purchased.

The electric movement should be of the self-starting, front-setting type. Replacement-type units are available that are mounted by simply running a threaded sleeve through the hand post hole of the dial and screwing on a knurled nut, as in Fig. 7. Dials may be purchased from the same source or may be made by drawing the numerals on a piece of fine white drawing paper and mounting the paper on a metal plate with cement.

Slowing Down Plaster of Paris

For jobs where the quick-setting quality of plaster of paris is objectionable, the rate of hardening can be slowed down by adding a small proportion of flour paste, paper-hanger's paste or starch. Make a thin



soup of the adhesive, and then stir it into the dry plaster until the right consistency is obtained. This is particularly helpful when patching plastered walls. Hardness of the patch is not affected materially.

—Walter E. Burton, Akron, Ohio.

Emergency Soap Carried in Car

A few pieces of soap dissolved in just enough water to form a thick solution makes an excellent cleansing fluid for the hands after engine or tire trouble on the road. When kept in a tightly sealed bottle in the car, the liquid will last indefinitely and always be at hand when needed.

Ladder Provided with Non-Slip Surface to Avoid Tipping

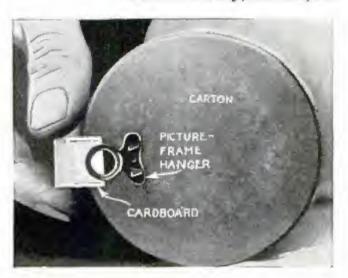


When working on a ladder that is leaned against a building or other smooth surface, a rubber-faced strip nailed to the under edge at the top will help prevent tipping. Corrugated rubber such as that used on car running boards or stair steps is ideal for the purpose.

Pouring Hole in Salt Container Is Made Adjustable

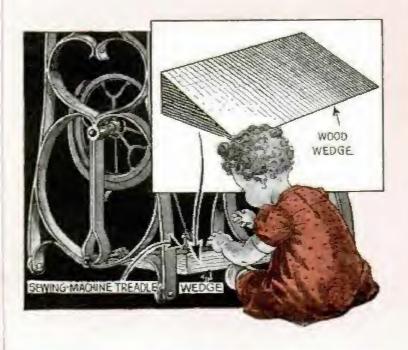
The difficulty of getting just the right size pouring opening in a carton of salt, sugar and similar packaged articles can be avoided by making the opening adjustable as indicated in the photo. To do this, a picture-frame hanger of the type shown is placed over the opening, and a piece of cardboard is pushed under it over the opening. The cardboard can be adjusted to give the desired orifice.

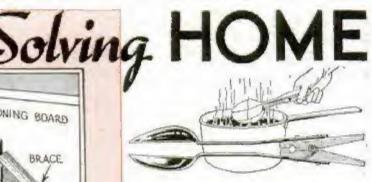
—Frank Bentley, Clinton, Ia.







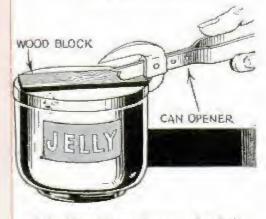




traning boards of the type having a turnbutton on the underside to hold the slanting brace can be improved by substituting a sash lock for the turnbutton as at the left. Two teaspoons and a clothespin assembled as above provide a handy lifter for removing boiled eggs from a pan of hot water



When a baby outgrows a folding play pen, the latter will serve as a gate in a doorway or at the head of an open stairway. The pen is adjustable to openings of various widths. The difficulty of holding a large wooden chopping or mixing bowl is avoided by attaching a knob or drawer pull to one side as indicated above. Use a brass wood screw for fastening the knob to avoid rust, which might contaminate the contents

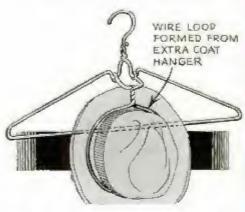


Left, there is no danger of a baby operating a foot-powered sewing machine and injuring its fingers if a wide wooden wedge is pushed tightly under the treadle when the machine is not in use. When removing a tight-fitting lid from a jelly glass with a can opener, a strip of thin wood used as shown above will prevent the lid from being bent out of shape. The wood serves as a stiffener across the top so that the opener does not press down on the center of the lid

Use a box like the one shown at the right to keep a few magazines handy on a porch swing. It is made of %-in. plywood and is assembled with screws. Iron brackets permit it to be attached to the underside of the swing. Above, a tay money bank provides a safe receptacle for used safety-razor blades. Being inexpensive, the bank can be disposed of when it is full



Right, a small table that will hook over a bed rail is often a great convenience to hold things within reach. It takes no floor space and moves with the bed, or it can be set away when not in use. Also, it will serve as a lamp stand if you read in bed. Above, worn spots on shoe soles can be covered with a tough layer of rubber compound by the use of inexpensive, easyspreading auto-top putty



To prevent a large globe on a porch light fixture from falling because vibration of a heavily traveled street has slowly loosened the screws that hold it, turn the screws so that the head slots are horizontal and place a length of iron wire around the light so that it rests in the slots, and tighten it by twisting. The combination hat-and-coat honger shown above is handy when closet space is very limited. Also, there is no possibility of the hat being knocked down



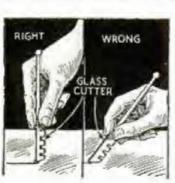
Holder Keeps Hammer Handy on Ladder for Workman



The necessity of keeping a hammer conveniently at hand when erecting eave troughs on buildings may be met by fastening a strip of stiff leather onto the side of the ladder as shown. This also precludes the dangerous possibility of a hammer, left on the roof even temporarily, falling and injuring someone below.

How to Hold Glass Cutter to Assure Clean Score

According to a skilled glass cutter, who is employed by a large glass manufacturing company to call on dealers and demonstrate successful methods of cutting and



fitting glass, much of the failure and discouragement of amateurs in the art can be attributed to holding the cutter at the wrong angle. Held as shown in the right-hand detail, sufficient pressure

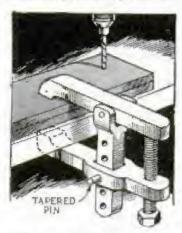
cannot be exerted and a hollow score is the result, with a possible loss in breakage.

However, if the tool is held as nearly vertical as possible, the score will be deeper with less strain on the hand muscles and the pieces will break clean and smooth along the desired lines.

Simple Clamp Has Deep Throat

This clamp can be made any size desired and in addition to having a deep throat, it gives a strong grip. The operating screw

is placed well back out of the way of the work to be clamped, something that is impossible with the conventional C-type of clamp. The adjusting pin should be a taper fit in the lower clamp jaw to keep it in place, and a

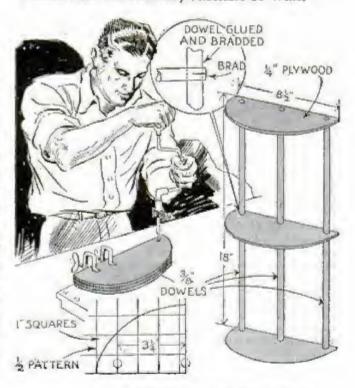


free fit in the holes of the sliding arm or connecting link.

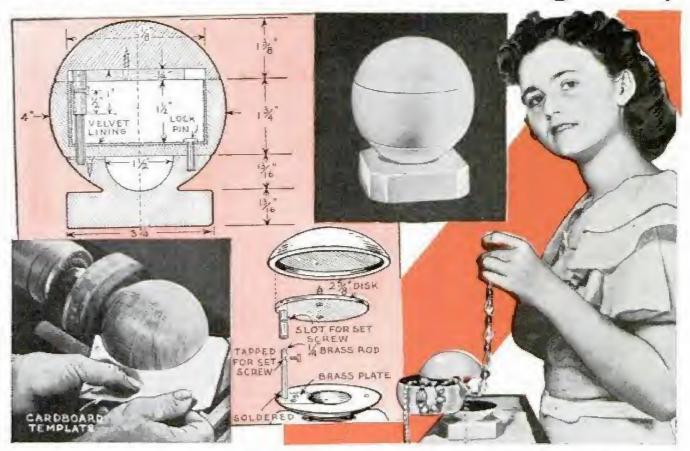
—Chas. H. Willey, Penacook, N. H.

Bric-a-Brac Shelves of Dowels and Plywood

These attractive bric-a-brac shelves can be made at a cost of a few cents. They are cut from plywood, after which they are stacked and drilled to take dowels. The shelves are glued and bradded to the latter. Finish can be enamel, varnish or wax.



Turned Trinket Box Has Secret Ring Cavity



This trinket box has a velvet-lined compartment closed by a pivoted lid, and a secret cavity in the base where rings may be hidden. First glue three pieces of 2-in. hardwood together, inserting a piece of paper in each joint so that the parts can be separated later. Then turn the unit to form a ball 4 in. in diameter. After this, remove the upper piece or lid and turn the compartment in the center piece. Next remove this and turn the cavity in the base. The lid hinge pivot is a short brass

rod soldered to a small brass plate mortised into the base as indicated. A thin brass disk screwed to the underside of the lid carries a short sleeve which slips over the pivot. The sleeve is slotted for a retaining set screw. To complete the job, drill a tiny hole through the bottom of the trinket compartment into the base to take a pin for locking the ring cavity. As the lid swings rather freely, no one is likely to notice the tiny locking pin that is the secret of getting at the ring cavity.

Wooden "Pliers" Loosen Drill Chucks Without Damage

The problem of loosening small drill chucks without marring or damaging them, which may happen if a metal object is used, is solved by using these wooden "pliers." They are made of plywood, and the opening in them should fit loosely over the chuck to be removed. The pliers are used by gripping the handles tightly and turning in the right direction.

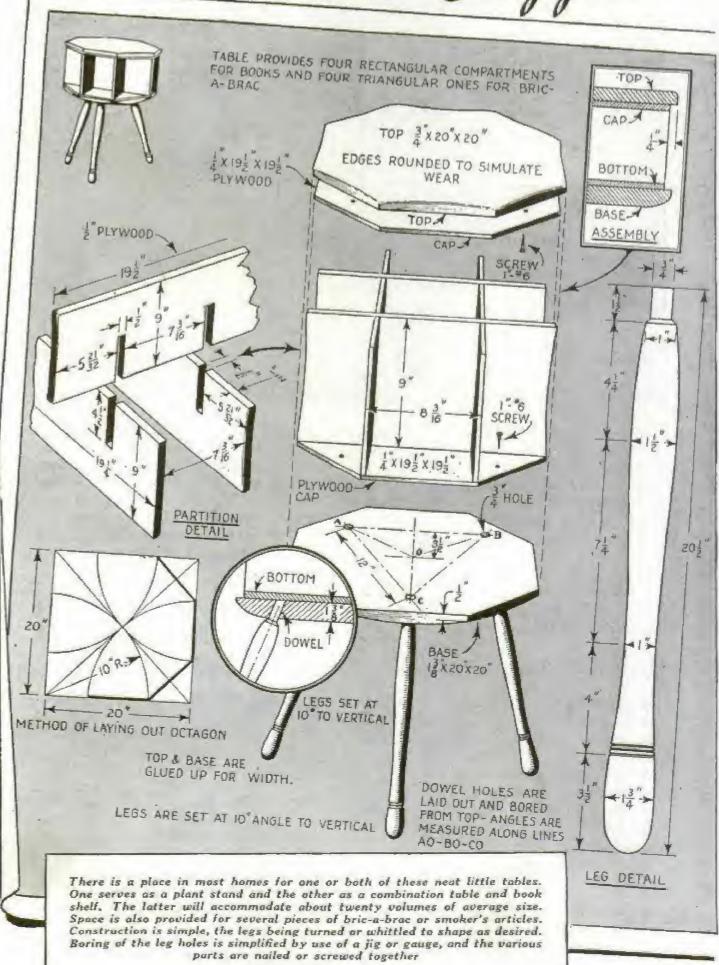
-Howard R. Heydorf, Missoula, Mont.

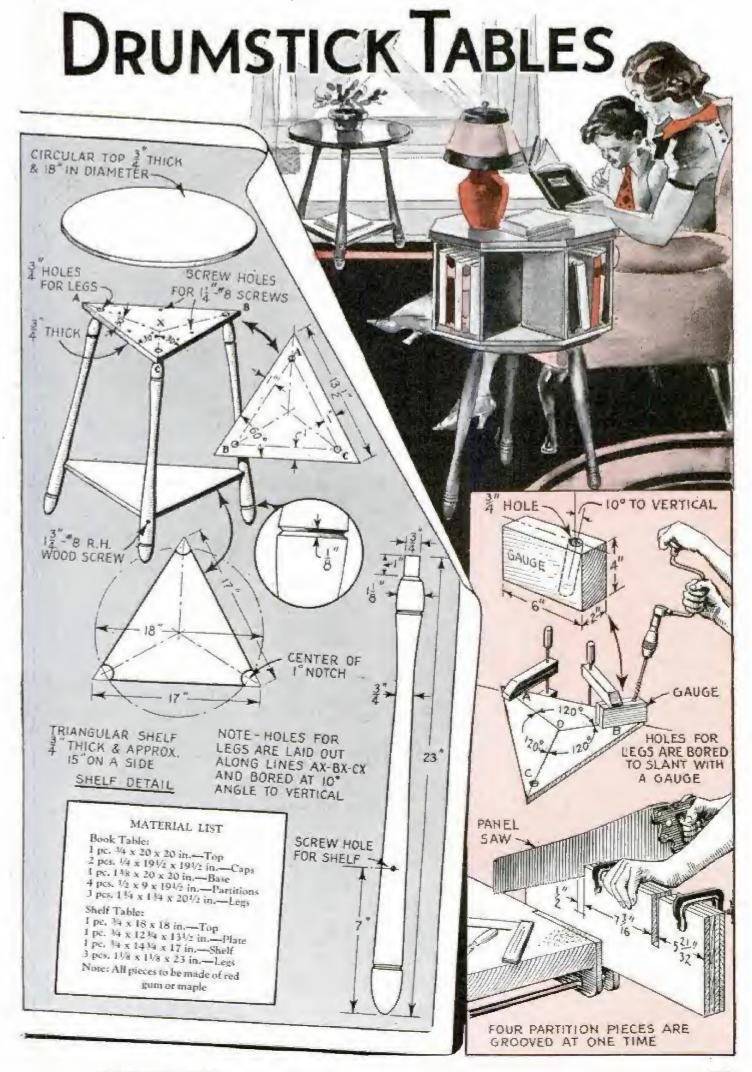
¶If bone meal is spaded into the earth around your shrubs late in the year, the winter snows and rains will wash it into the soil and nourish the roots.



OCTOBER, 1940 583

Three-Legged





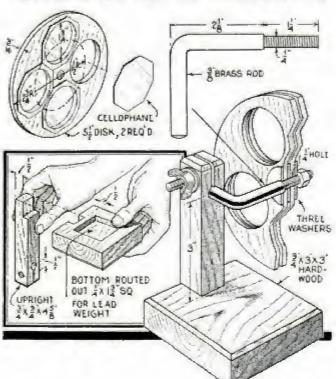
Small Tweezers Serve as Vise for Tying Fishing Flies



One of the simplest of vises for tying fishing flies may be made from a pair of pocket tweezers with pieces of rubber tubing slipped over the tips. By pushing the handle of the tweezers through a narrow slit in the top of the tackle box, the points may be made to close and hold the hook firmly in any desired position.

Color Filter for Microscope Is Adjustable

Any one of four colors or combinations of the four, for use with a microscope, is available with this filter. It consists of two \%-in. plywood disks, which have four corresponding openings over which pieces of



colored Cellophane are glued. The disks are pivoted to a suitable support by means of a brass rod, and are separated by a thin washer as indicated.

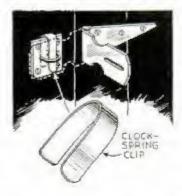
Waxed Line Prevents Plumb Bob from Rotating

Much of the trouble caused by a plumb bob that rotates when suspended with a long line can be overcome by merely applying a coating of paraffin or other wax to the line.



This will cement the strands of the line to prevent twisting without reducing the efficiency of the bob.

Self-Locking of Hasp Avoided by Spring Clip under Staple



If you have had the experience of having your garage or barn door blow shut, while you were inside, and then found that the hinge had engaged the staple so that it was practically locked,

you will appreciate this little spring clip, which slips under the staple plate to prevent such accidents. The clip is shaped from a short piece of clock spring.

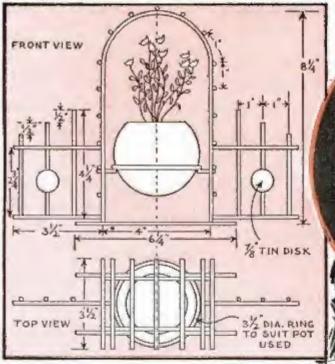
Test Tube held in Water Bath by Cushion Coil Spring

In performing experiments, where the working of gases or chemicals must be observed in the test tube while it is in the water bath, one-half of

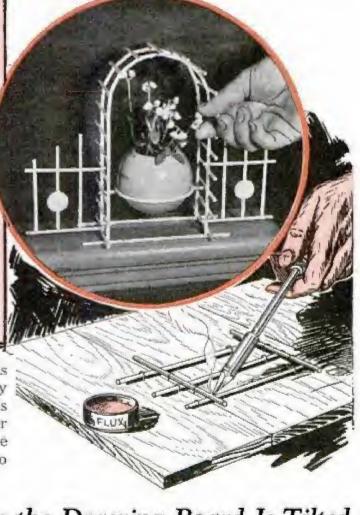


an auto cushion spring will serve as a convenient support. The large end of the spring is placed in the water pan and the tube is slipped through the small end.

Midget Trellis to Hold Tiny Potted Plants



An eye catcher about the house, this trellis flowerpot holder carries a brightly colored pot for small plants. The trellis work is made of ½-in. iron rod welded or soldered together. Fence sections are made up and joined to the trellis, then a ring to hold the pot is fastened in place.



Ink Bottle Kept Level When the Drawing Board Is Tilted

After trying many ways of holding a bottle of drawing ink on a tilted board, I made the holder shown. It consists of two wood blocks hinged together at one end, the top of a tin can being cut off and provided with

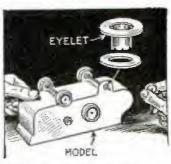


tabs to hold the bottle. The hinge pin is removed and a long slender bolt and wing nut substituted. This permits the hinge action to be made tight enough to keep the holder at any desired adjustment. A pin projecting from the underside of the lower block slips into a hole in a drawing board to keep the holder in position, yet make it removable by merely lifting it.

—L. B. Robbins, Harwich, Mass.

Eyelets Provide Good Bearings for Your Models

When working models of prospective machines, toys, etc., are made up of cardboard, I find that ordinary eyelets are just the thing for bearings on moving shafts.



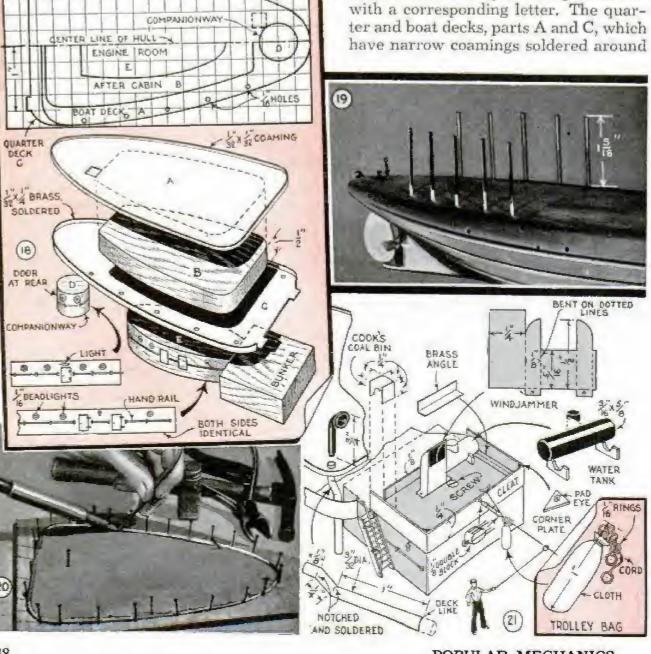
These are obtainable in various sizes.

—A. H. Waychoff, Phoenix, Ariz.

ERICS SON Great Lakes

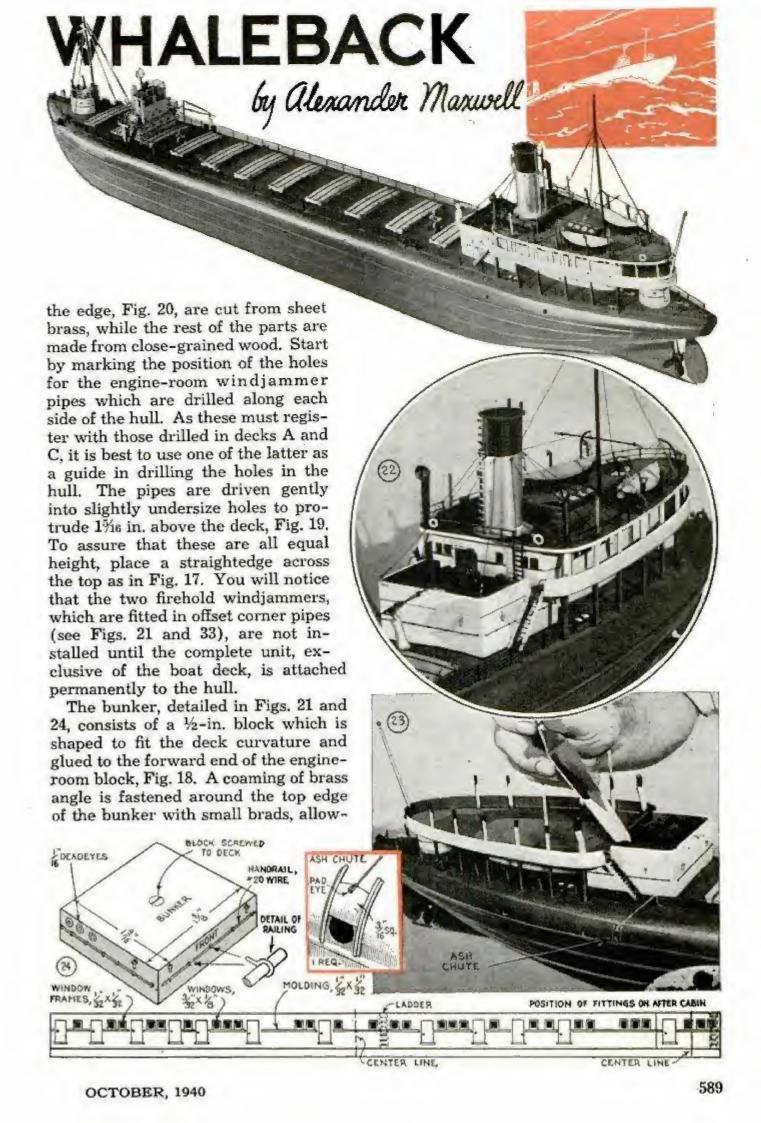
The superstructure—bunker, engine room, cabin, decks and companionway

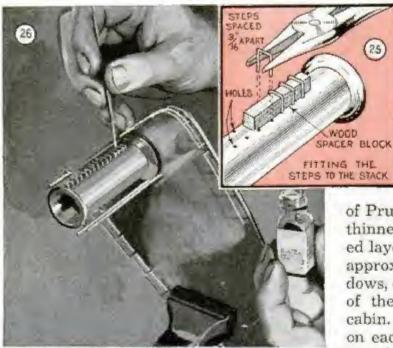
AVING finished the hull, forecastle and the pilot house as described in the previous installment, you may now proceed to complete your model of the "John Ericsson" by adding the superstructure, Fig. 22, located on the fantail deck. Fig. 18 gives a lettered plan to follow in making full-size paper patterns of the various parts, and also shows the order of assembly, each part being identified

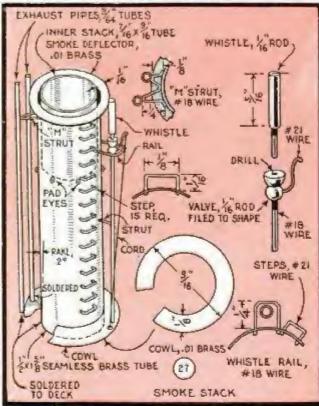


JOHN

2505









ing it to overhang the edge slightly, after which corner plates and cleats are soldered to the edge as in Fig. 21. Before fastening the bunker and engine-room unit to the hull, the sides should be painted white and outlined with black India ink. This should be a dazzling white. It can be obtained by using sign-painter's zinc-white color to which a touch

of Prussian blue has been added. Apply it thinned. Figs. 18 and 24 show flat, extended layouts that can be used in locating the approximate position of the doors, windows, deadlights and handrails on the sides of the companionway, engine room and cabin. As the layout for the cabin differs on each side, you will have to work each way from a centerline marked lengthwise on the block. The thin strips of wood or cardboard applied to represent window

frames, are painted a bright red.

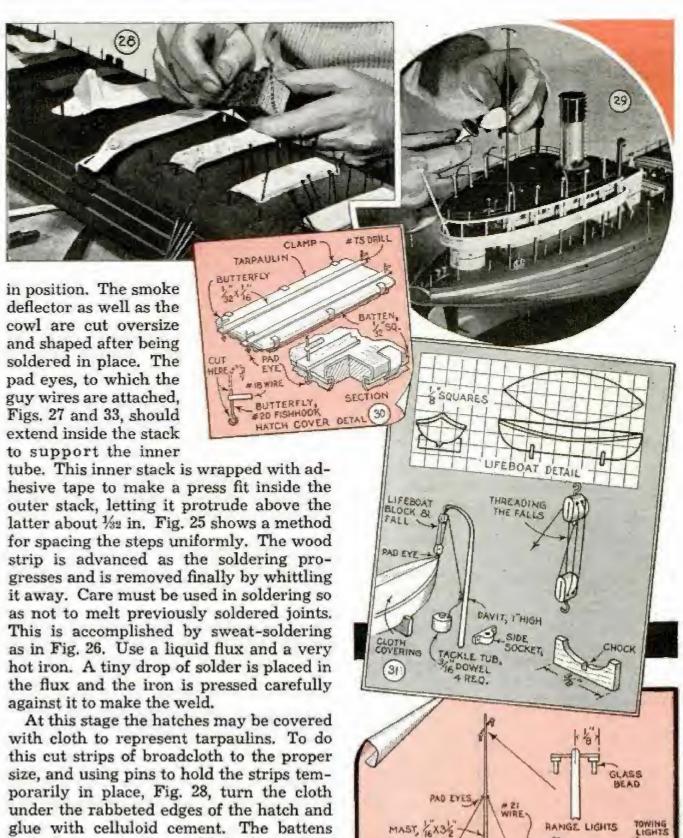
25

Attach the bunker, engine room and companionway to the hull with a screw through each, Fig. 24. Next, place the quarter-deck in position and on top of this fasten the cabin with a screw down through the top. Solder the flagpole in place, and then paint the top and bottom of the quarter-deck oxide red and the railing white. You can now install the remaining fittings in the bunker which are namely: the water tank, windjammer and cook's coal bin, Fig. 21. Crushed coal is filled in around the fittings, Fig. 23, and then thin varnish is poured over the coal to keep it in place.

The trolley bag, shown in Fig. 21, contains the safety ropes used by the deck crew to keep from being washed overboard during stormy weather. The life line on which the bag hangs is a length of No. 6-0 thread and extends lengthwise of the cargo deck from a pad eye fitted in the rear of the pilot house to a block-and-tackle-attached to the coal-bunker coaming.

The smokestack is a significant part of a ship. To a sailor it identifies the name of the owner, the type of power used, the age of the vessel and the living conditions aboard. The "John Ericsson's" stack was tubular in shape. Figs. 25 to 27 inclusive detail the construction of this. The fittings

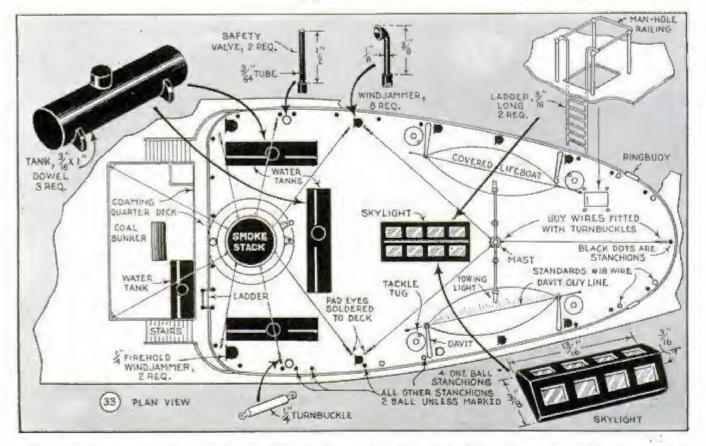
consist of a ladder, two exhaust pipes and a whistle. Made of 1/2-in. seamless tubing, it is first drilled for the fittings and then soldered to the boat deck A, using a small clamp to hold it



and clamps are then added after which strongbacks placed lengthwise over the cloth are held by butterfly screws hooked in pad eyes fitted in the deck, Fig. 30.

Paint the strongbacks red.

The boat deck A which overhangs the cabin, is supported by wire standards as in Figs. 29 and 33. Holes for these are drilled through this top deck and the lower ends of the standards are soldered to the top surface of quarter deck C. Cut the standards off flush with the top of the boat deck and attach the latter with two screws,



placing one inside the smokestack and the other under the skylight, Fig. 33.

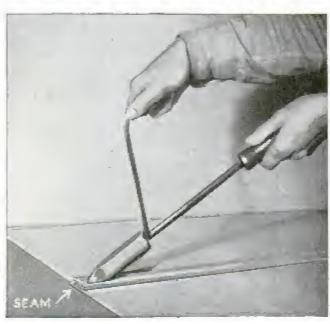
Details of the lifeboats and their position on the boat deck are given in Figs. 31 and 33 respectively. These are carved from wood, the keels and gunwales being glued on separately, and cloth is glued over the top to represent tarpaulins, Fig. 29.

Before installing the mast, skylight, water tanks, davits, etc., details of which are given in Figs. 31 to 33 inclusive, paint the boat deck and all of the fittings dark green. The name "John Ericsson" should be lettered carefully in white on the quarter

(see Part I, Fig. 2) and in black on the after rail including the word "Duluth," its home port.

Now, if you should wish to build a replica of a typical 300-ft. whaleback instead of the 404-ft. "John Ericsson," using the %-in. scale, all you have to do is to make the hull distance between stations No. 9 and 10, 17½ in. long instead of 30½ in. when cutting the hull block. The pilot house is placed against the coal bunker. This will give you a model 37½ in. long having eight hatches spaced evenly over the cargo deck.

Notched Bar Relieves Hand Strain When Sweat-Soldering

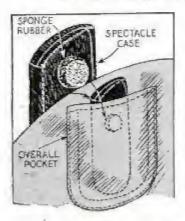


Much of the strain on the hand when sweating thin metals together with a soldering iron can be avoided by using a notched bar to help press down the soldering iron on the work. The bar is placed just back of the tip of the iron as shown.

Dew Is Found Missing on Chair Coated with Aluminum Paint

After applying a priming coat of aluminum paint to a wooden deck chair, an eastern seashore resident observed that this chair was not covered with dew although the deck railing, floor and other furniture were wet. While dew deposit depends on the amount of moisture in the air as well as the amount of temperature drop at night, both of which are highly variable, so that the same effects might not be noticeable in all cases, other readers may be able to profit from this experience.

Spectacle Case Held in Pocket by Sponge-Rubber Disk

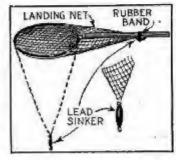


Workmen who are annoyed by having spectacle cases drop out of their pockets when they stoop, may avoid this trouble by gluing thick rubber disks of sponge rubber to the cases as indicated. Friction be-

tween the disk and the inside surface of the pocket keeps the case in place.

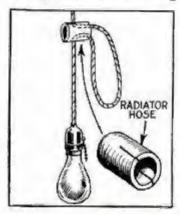
Weighted Net Opens Quickly

Having lost a large fish because his landing net had become tangled and would not open quickly, one fisherman avoided this trouble in the future by weight-



ing the lower end of the net. A large lead sinker was used for the purpose, and when not in use, the net is stretched back along the handle where it is held by a rubber band. This is quickly rolled back with the thumb, allowing the weight to bring the net into position when needed.

Adjustable Lamp for Workshop



When you want to adjust the height of a drop lamp, use a short length of hose. Just slot one end toward the center on opposite sides and slip it over the cord of the lamp as indicated.

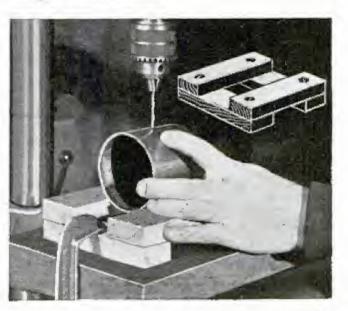
Plank Supported Between Ladders Is Clamped to Prevent Tipping



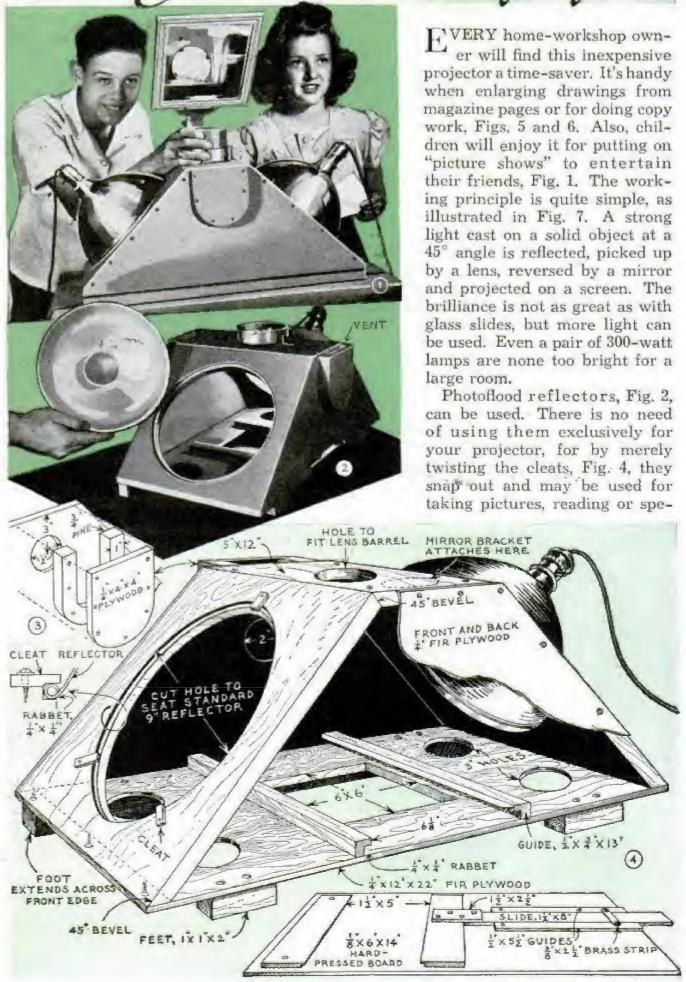
When working from a plank or scaffolding board supported between two ladders, it is a good idea to clamp the plank so that it cannot tip if you step close to the edge. While the plank may not tip enough to cause an accident, it does frighten you.

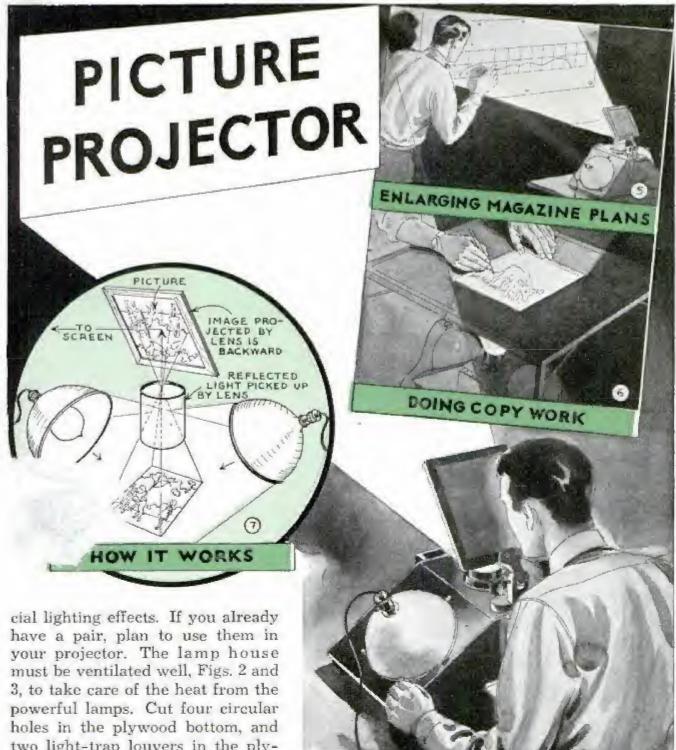
Handy V-Block for Large Work

A V-block for supporting work of large diameter in a drill press can be made by simply nailing or screwing four wood blocks together as indicated. Spacing of the blocks will be determined by the diameter of the work to be handled. One pair of blocks can be spaced closer than the other pair to give the V-block a wider range of usefulness.



Build this dual-purpose





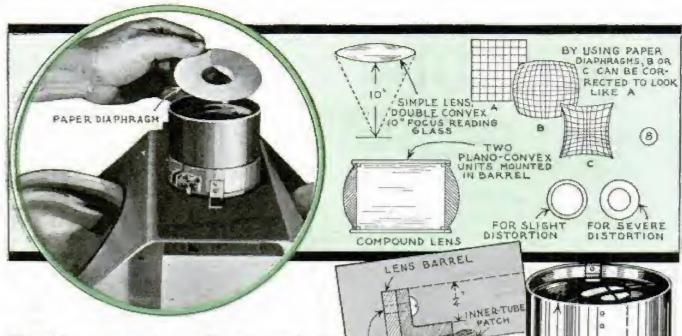
must be ventilated well, Figs. 2 and 3, to take care of the heat from the powerful lamps. Cut four circular holes in the plywood bottom, and two light-trap louvers in the plywood ends. Holes both above and below the light create a draft and give maximum cooling. Use well-dried lumber and assemble with screws. The end panels are cut to fit after the rest of the

housing has been assembled.

The selection of a lens is of utmost importance. An ordinary reading glass will do if the projector is to be used only for amusement. However, low-priced lenses have a tendency to distort, making a grill that looks like B and C in Fig. 8. This can be corrected to some extent by using a diaphragm made from heavy paper and laid over the lens. The quantity of light is cut down, but the picture is more normal.

Your lens should be between 3 and 5 in. in diameter. A compound lens will be necessary if the projector is to be used for critical enlarging and copying. These can be obtained for as low as \$6.00 from optical houses. A compound lens has at least five times the brilliance of a simple lens, and much less distortion.

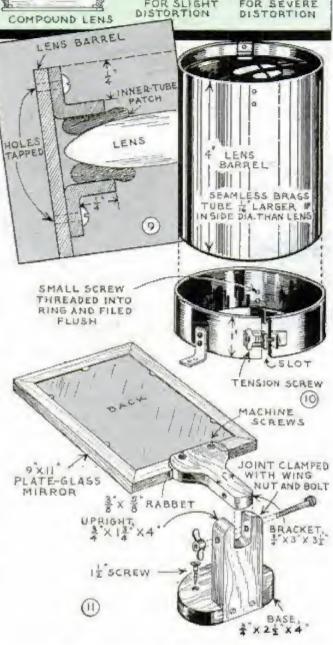
Focusing on most lenses is critical and the barrel and ring must work smoothly. Seamless brass tubing works best but is often difficult to obtain locally. It is stocked by mill and machinist supply houses. Order a size that will allow your lens to



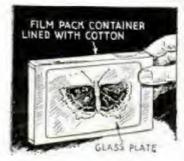
"float," so expansion will not crack it. Mount it between tiny angles of brass, Fig. 9, padded with rubber cut from an innertube patch. Stick these to the glass. You will have to make the angles from sheet stock. Thread the small machine screws, Fig. 10, into the barrel and focusing ring and file flush on the outside. Adjust the tension screw until the barrel will just slide when twisted.

Postcards and snapshots are clamped flat in the carriage, while books and other thick objects are slid under the square hole. The carriage slide moves back and forth between guides to accommodate any picture up to 6 in. square. Paint the carriage and base black to kill reflection.

A mirror, preferably of the plate-glass type, gives the image the necessary reversal. Mount it so it may be held in any desired position by tightening the wing nut, Fig. 11. The distance you can throw a picture, and the size of it, depend largely upon your lens and the lights. Using the average magnifying glass and a pair of 100-watt bulbs, an image 3 ft. square on the screen 8 ft. away is possible. For copying on a glass-top table or ceiling projection, the mirror is not used.



Discarded Photographic Film Packs Serve as Cases for Insect Specimens



Discarded metal film packs and photographic plates, which can be obtained from your local photographer, provide ideal specimen cases for collectors of insects. Remove all parts from the pack but the outside case and line the latter with cotton. Remove the gelatin coating from the plates with hot water, place the insect and then assemble the pack in the regular way. Before closing the pack, it is a good idea to add some moth flakes to keep out small insects that might destroy the specimen.

Three-Piece Tidbit Tray of Unusual Design



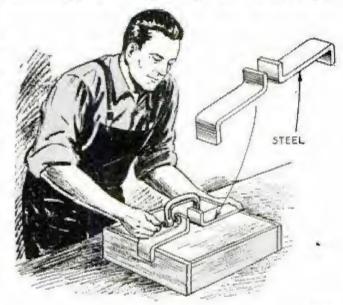
Ideal for serving cookies, nuts and afterdinner mints, this tray is not only useful but is a novel table decoration when turned from walnut, mahogany or gum. It consists of a base or large tray which supports a standard carrying two identical smaller

nate design, use three small trays each 3 in. in diameter and group them cloverleaf fashion in a cluster on the same plane about the standard, allowing an extra ½ in. between the handle and cups so there will be plenty of finger space.

Offset Angles to Increase Working Range of C-Clamps

When used with C-clamps these offset angles enable the worker to fasten large pieces of stock together for gluing or other processing. A small clamp, when used with two offset angles as shown, will serve in place of a larger and more expensive woodworking clamp. Make the angles from cold rolled steel. Bend them cold after having set them up in a vise.

¶Grease spots on carpets and rugs can be removed usually by rubbing with a clean cloth dipped in hot water to which ammonia has been added. For stubborn spots, use a thin paste of fuller's earth and water. Allow to dry, then rub off with a brush.



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Sled Hung Between Garage Studs Is Out of the Way



Your sled will be stored out of the way, and still be handy and convenient when wanted, if you drive a pair of screw eyes and a screw hook into the wall of your garage, between the studs, as indicated. By slipping the runner ends into the screw eyes, and one runner under the hook, the sled will be supported safely.

Spring Wedge Aids in Sawing Lengthwise of Long Board

A wedge made from a piece of spring steel as shown, will be helpful when ripping long boards. When inserted into the saw cut, the wedge maintains a constant pressure on both edges and keeps the cut



spread so that the saw does not bind. Such a wedge saves time because it does not have to be forced frequently into the cut to keep the parts of the board separated.

Ball Bearings Handled Easily with Split Hose

A short piece of small rubber hose split at one end and a short length of wire make an efficient tool for handling small ball bearings. In use, the split end of the hose is pressed down on the bearing to engage it



and the wire inside the hose dislodges the bearing when desired.

Hand Grip on Paint Bucket Supports Bail Vertically



To prevent the handle of a paint bucket from dropping down against the side, where it may be smeared with paint, cut a length of garden hose, with ends tapered as shown, and slit this at one side to fit over the

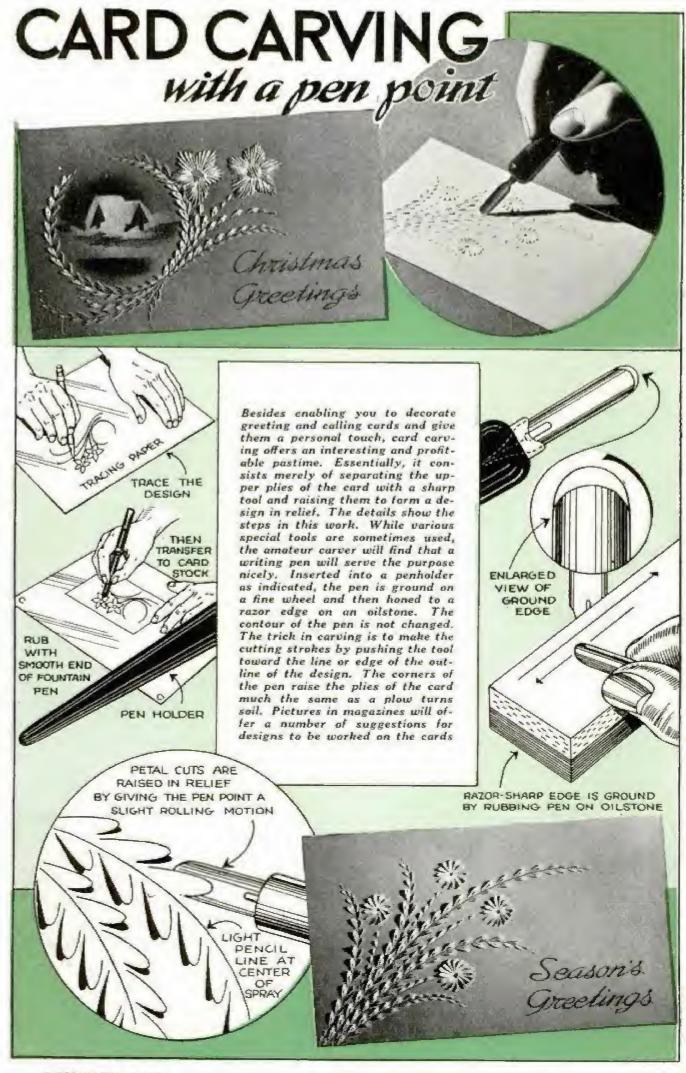
bail. Dropped into the position indicated, the hose supports the bail vertically, or it may be raised to dotted-line position to make a comfortable carrying handle.

Finger Rest for Automatic Pencil

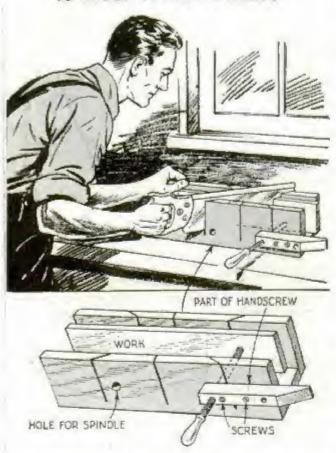
When you use an automatic pencil continually for long periods of time, the fingers are likely to become cramped and tired. As a relief, slip the cork fin-



ger rest from a penholder over the end of the pencil. This will provide a better grip and the fingers will not tire as quickly.



Miter Box Is Fitted with a Clamp to Hold Work in Place



Holding work in a miter box for sawing is a simple matter if the spindle and jaw of a handscrew are screwed temporarily to the side of the box, over a hole drilled for the spindle. Only a slight turn of the spindle is necessary to hold the work firmly. When not needed, the handscrew can be reassembled and used for its regular purpose. The small screw holes made in the jaw do not weaken the clamp materially.

-Robert Clark, Chicago.

Handy Spreader for Mucilage and Cements in Tubes



A convenient spreader that may be slipped over the mouth of a tube of mucilage or cement as a substitute for the cap, is made by cutting a slit in the end of an ordinary rub-

ber slip-over eraser. Make the cut deep enough to reach the hollow core of the rubber. On squeezing the tube, the cement will be forced from the cut, ready for spreading. The tube is automatically sealed when the cement dries on the spreader. It may be used with all cements except rubber compounds using benzole, benzine or similar solvents which attack rubber.

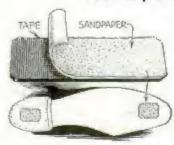
Rusting of Exposed Bolts and Nuts Avoided with Roof Coating

Carriage or machine bolts that pass through wood exposed to the weather will soon rust in place so tightly that they are difficult to remove without damaging them. To prevent this,



coat the bolt with asphalt roofing compound before putting it in place.

Abrasive Shoe-Sole Patches for Icy Sidewalks



Patches of coarse sandpaper or abrasive cloth to stick to your shoe soles will give you good footing when sidewalks are icy. The patches can

be applied by simply pressing them against the soles, or removed by stripping them off. To make the patches, just attach them to the dry side of friction tape with rubber cement, leaving the tacky side of the tape for attaching the patches to the shoes.

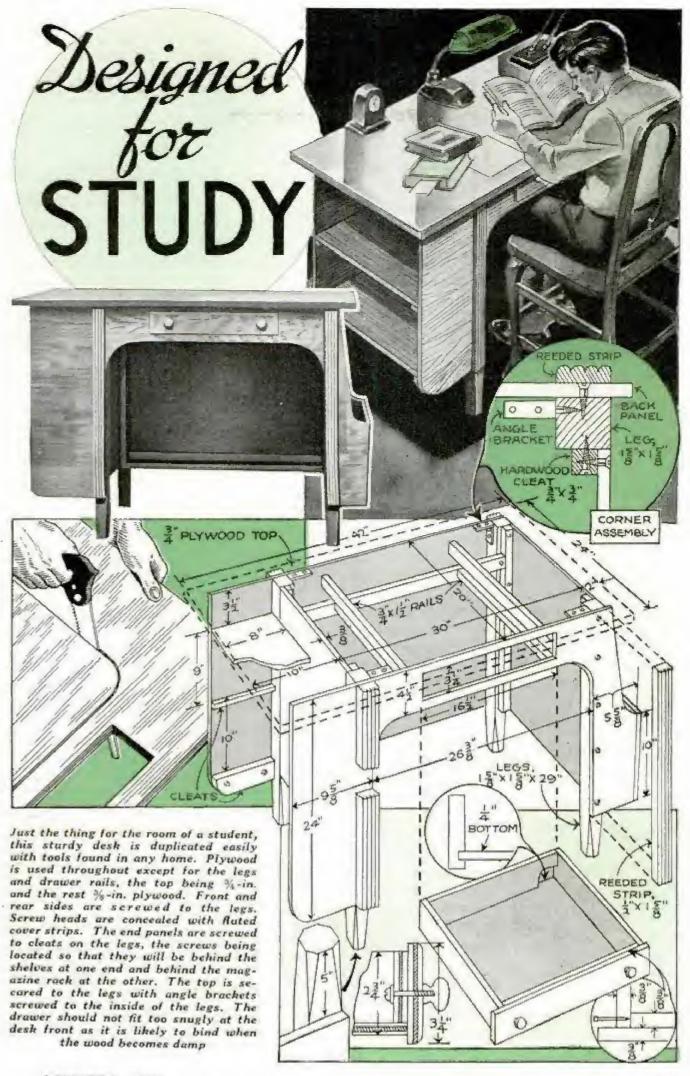
-Ray E. Kraft, Forest Park, Ill.

Cork Holds Spoon on Tumbler

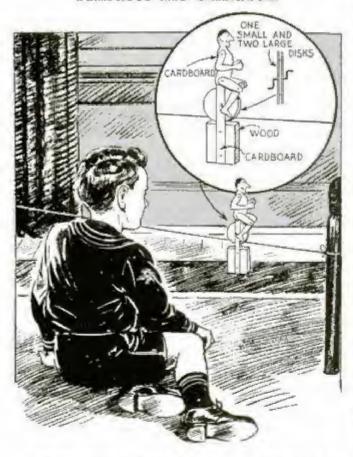
To keep a spoon always at hand and avoid placing it upon the table top and causing a stain, merely saw cross notches at right angles to each other, in opposite ends of a cork. One notch



in the cork fits over the edge of the tumbler and the other will engage the handle of the spoon, holding it firmly.

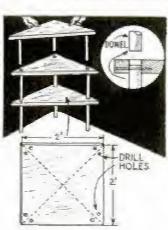


Easily Assembled Rope Walker Amuses the Children



When you are looking for something to amuse a small child, try this tight-rope walker. It is constructed of cardboard in a few minutes. Each arm is cut in one piece and pivoted to the body, while each leg is in two pieces and pivoted at the knee and hip. The disk, which runs on a taut string, has an axle of the bicycle type, the feet being pivoted to it. A block of wood is used as a counterweight to keep the walker upright.

Portable Built-Up Corner Shelves Take Minimum Space



Especially useful in basement
rooms where
space is limited
and the arrangement is changed
frequently, these
portable shelves
may be taken
down whenever
desired. Each
shelf, which is one
quarter of a 2 by

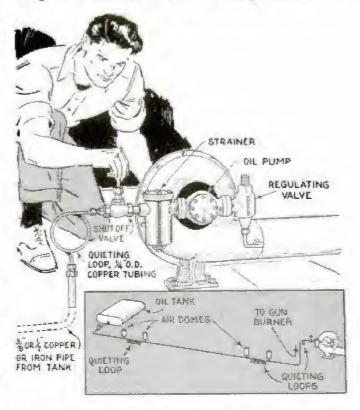
2-ft. piece of ¾-in. plywood, may be used separately or stacked one upon the other

as shown. Dowels fastened with a nail, and glued in holes drilled in the corners, form the legs and support the shelves. Where the floor is irregular, bottom shelf legs may be measured and cut to compensate for any slope.

-Dale R. Van Horn, Lincoln, Nebr.

Hum in Fuel Lines of Oil Burners Silenced by Copper-Tube Coils

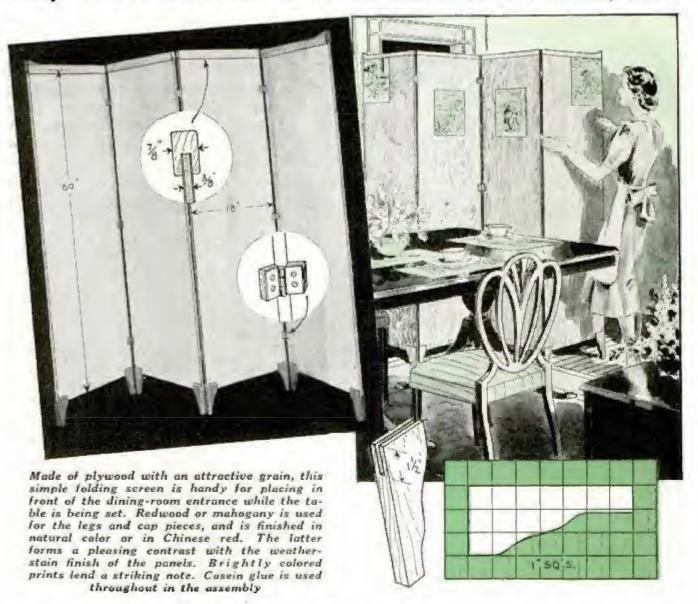
An oil-line hum that often develops in some gun-type oil burners can be silenced by coiling a 30-in. length of thick-walled 1/4-in. O.D. copper tubing and installing it in the fuel line close to the burner. The hum originates from the pulsating output of the gear-type pumps and, the oil not being compressible, the noise is carried through the lines much in the way that an iron rod carries vibration when tapped with a hammer. The effectiveness of this remedy is based on speeding the oil a short distance through the relatively small tubing. Stubborn cases of this trouble have been cured by the more effective method illustrated in the lower detail. Quieting loops are installed at the storage-tank end



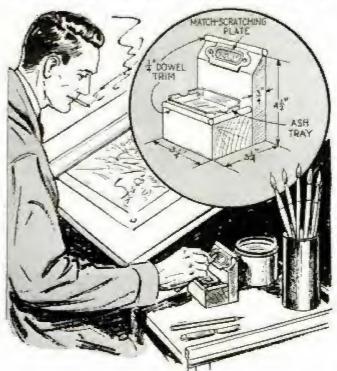
of the line as well as at the burner end. In addition to these, air domes are also installed at the end of each loop. These are made of ½-in. pipe nipples, 6 in. long, which are capped at the upper ends and screwed into pipe tees installed in the line.

—John W. Schulz, Bay Shore, N. Y.

Plywood Screen Useful Around the Home



Pencil Pointer and Ash Tray in One Unit for Artists



A match-scratching plate serves as a permanent abrasive surface for pointing pencil leads on this combination pencil pointer and ash tray. To promote cleanliness, the plate is tilted so that dust from the pencil lead drops into the ash tray. When necessary, abrasiveness can be restored to the corrugated surface of the plate by going over it with a discarded toothbrush.

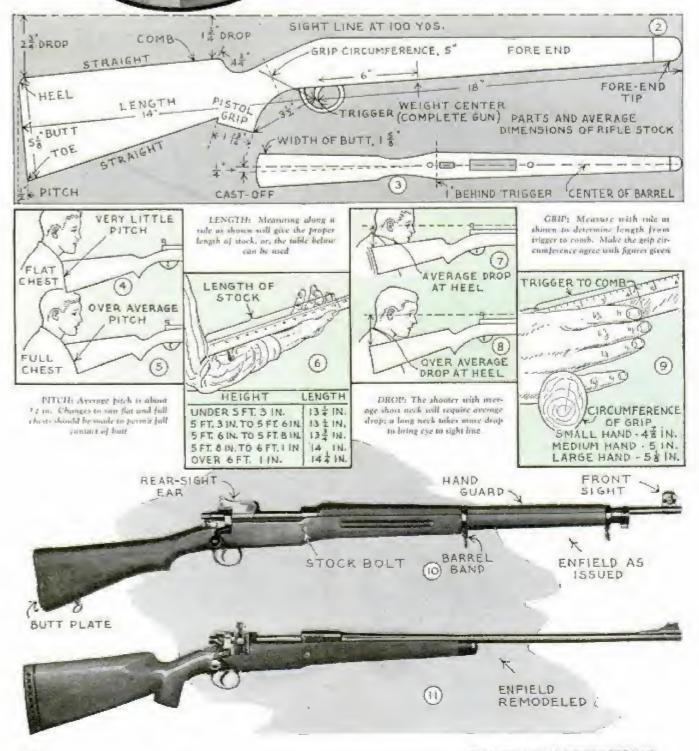
Glue Made from Medical Capsule Sticks to Glass

A good adhesive for sticking cutout gold-paper letters or similar items to glass may be made easily by dissolving a few medical capsules in a small amount of warm water. Just enough water should be used to make a thick solution.

GUNCRAFTin

COMBINING both metal and wood working, guncraft can be made a most fascinating hobby. With average shop equipment and a few inexpensive special tools, the gun shooter can remodel a commercial or military stock to fit his own physique, checker the grip, smooth the action and spend many pleasurable hours on a host of other jobs which will make his gun look and shoot better.

Gunstock design: The average man takes to ready-made gunstocks just like he takes





to ready-made clothes-the fit is fairly good but not perfect. Fig. 2 gives the dimensions of the average rifle stock. If you have a flat chest, you will want a stock with very little or no pitch; if you have a full chest, you will want more than average, Figs. 4 and 5. From bent elbow to middle of index finger measured along a rule, Fig. 6, will give you the length your stock should be from trigger to center of butt. The man with a short neck will require average drop at the heel of the stock, Fig. 7, while the man with long neck and sloping shoulders, Fig. 8, will require much more drop at this point. The distance from trigger to point of comb will average 43/4 in., but you will get a personal fit if you make this distance the same as from the

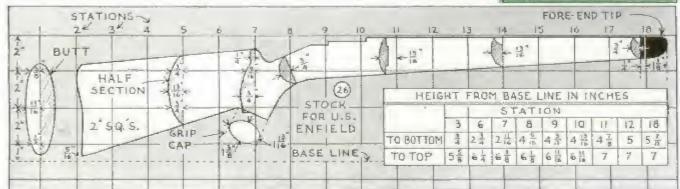
crotch of your thumb to the tip of your index finger, as shown in Fig. 9. Hand size also determines the circumference of the grip, varying according to the dimensions given.

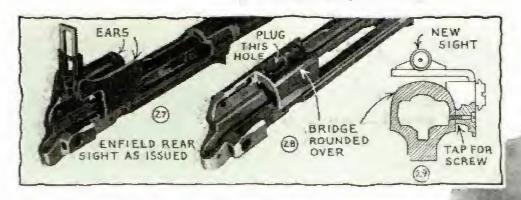
The military rifle: The most popular job in guncraft is the remodeling of a military rifle. Some of

these can be purchased as low as three dollars. One of the best of the low-priced guns is the U.S. Enfield, model of 1917, which can be obtained from the Director of Civilian Marksmanship, Washington, for less than ten dollars. This gun as issued is shown in Fig. 10, while Fig. 11 shows a typical remodeling job, making it a high-power sporting rifle. Other military rifles which usually can be found for sale include the U. S. Springfield, the Russian Nagant, the British Lee Enfield, Canadian Ross, etc. All are bolt-action rifles.

Remodeling the military stock: You can improve greatly the appearance of any military rifle such as the U.S. Enfield by revamping the stock. This is done by gluing on pieces of matched walnut, as shown in Figs. 12 and 13, and then dressing the







lamp black and oil, Fig. 17, pressing the barrel and action into the wood to locate tight spots, which are then sanded down. The exterior is worked down to suitable dimensions, working from a centerline all around the edges of the blank.

You may want some cast-off in the stock, as shown in Fig. 3, in which case the centerline from immediately behind the trigger to the butt will be moved to the right. A small amount of cast-off will usually improve the hang of the gun and

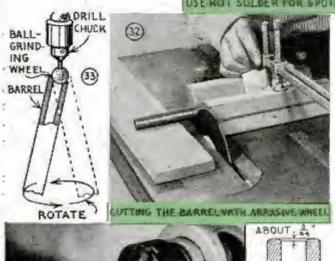
permit more natural sighting. The stock can be lightened and balanced by boring and routing, as in Fig. 22. The most important point in inletting is the fitting at the recoil lug, which must bed perfectly against the wood,



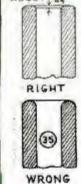
typical sporting stock for the Enfield, which can be varied slightly to suit your own dimensions. The comb is higher than the patched stock previously described, and the pistol grip is of ample dimensions to negative any feeling that the little fin-

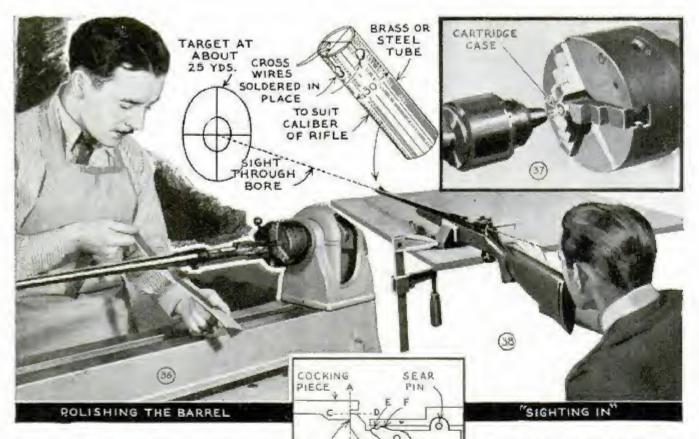
ger will slip off.

Fitting metal parts: The rear sight of the Enfield is shown in Fig. 27. This can be removed and the bridge rounded over to take any of several commercial sights made for this gun, Figs. 28 and 29. In grinding, Fig. 30, care should be taken not to draw the temper. Spot annealing for fitting screw holes for the rear sight can be done with a ball of solder which should be melted with a red-hot iron at the position required, Fig. 31. The barrel length of the Enfield is 26 in. It can be shortened to 22 or 24 in. if desired, making the cut with an abrasive wheel, Fig. 32. The muzzle then can be crowned with a ball abra-









SEAR

NOSE B

TRIGGER

(39)

SEAR

TRIGGER

PIN

DIAGRAM

OF MILITARY

TRIGGER

SHOWING ACTION

sive wheel, or various sizes of round-head bolts lapped with abrasive grains can be used, Figs. 33, 34 and 35. You will find that the follower in the magazine will prevent the bolt from working unless there is a cartridge in the magazine. This is a feature of all military rifles. For sporting use it is better to grind the follower off at an angle so that the bolt can slip over it. A bevel about % in. long will give the required action. Other worth-while abrasive jobs include the polishing of the barrel, Fig. 36, and the lapping of the bolt with very fine abrasive to secure smoother action.

Sighting-in: In locating new sights it is necessary to sight the rifle. Without actually firing the gun, the best method is bore sighting, as shown in Fig. 38. To set up for this, make a hole with a No. 70 to 80 drill through the end of an empty cartridge, Fig. 37. Fit this in the usual position at the end of the barrel. Plug the muzzle end of the barrel with a steel tube to which has been fitted fine cross wires. Secure the rifle solidly in place and sight through the cartridge and tube to the center of a target at least 25 yds. away. Adjust the front and rear sights until they come on the target at the same point as the sight through the bore. Temporary mounting of the sights can be done with any kind of tacky substance. Accurate bore sighting can be done through the open bore without any special set-up. Any method of bore sighting is sufficiently accurate to permit permanent mounting of the sights. Final adjustments after field shooting can be made with the adjustments provided on the rear sight.

Adjusting trigger pull: The pull of the military rifle is usually about 6 lbs. You will want it about 3 or 4 lbs. for sporting use. To get this pull, first polish the sear nose on the line AB, Fig. 39. Now, notice in the diagram that the trigger pull is really two pulls, the first or preliminary pull using the cam F as a fulcrum, while the final pull



POPULAR MECHANICS

uses point E as a fulcrum. Grind a little metal from point E to shorten the final pull, and carefully polish the metal at this point together with the surface on which it operates. When you have finished with this, test the trigger pull with weights, as shown in Fig. 40, and you will probably find it is down to about 4 lbs. Some gunsmiths reduce the pull by grinding the sear nose on line CD. However, unless you understand fully what you are doing, it is best to leave the metal alone at this point since any reduction in the shoulder length also decreases the safety factor.

(To be continued)

Hog Trough Serves as Form for Concrete Corner Posts

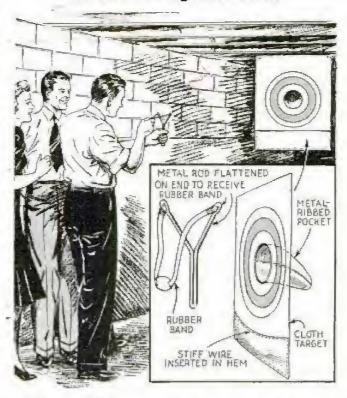
Confronted with the need of some substantial corner posts for his field fences, which could not be purchased in town, one farmer employed a hog trough as a form



for making the posts from concrete. If the trough available is too long, a triangular piece can be toenailed in it at the correct location without damaging the trough for its regular use.

When crystalline strontium chloride is dissolved in water, heat is absorbed and the entire solution becomes cooler. This strontium-chloride freezing mixture gives a temperature of a few degrees above zero Fahr., and can thus be used to maintain a uniformly low temperature in refrigerators.

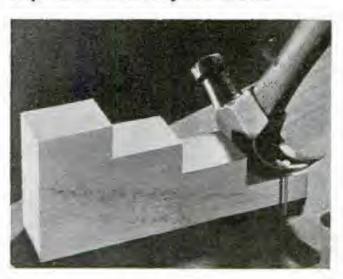
Slingshot Target Is Entertaining in the Rumpus Room



You will have a lot of fun in testing your skill with a slingshot if you use a target similar to the one shown. It is made of canvas or muslin and has a deep metalribbed pocket sewed over an opening in the center. This catches the steel ball, which is shot at it, and a second pocket along the lower edge catches the ball if you miss the bull's-eye. A slingshot can be made from a length of metal rod and a strong rubber band as indicated.

Step Block Aids in Pulling Nails

This step block is an improvement over the usual practice of using a scrap of wood under the hammer head when pulling nails. The block is about 6 in. long and the steps can be made any size to suit.



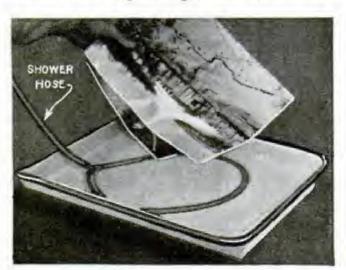
Darkroom Window Shade 'Sealed' to Keep Out the Light



Little light will leak through your darkroom window if the shade is fitted with two
felt-lined metal flaps and a wooden or
metal roller housing. The flaps are mounted on spring hinges so they press the
drawn shade tightly against the window
frame. If possible, the sill should be removed so it will not push the shade out.

Shoulder Shower Ring in Tray Washes Prints Thoroughly

A shoulder shower ring consisting of a piece of perforated rubber hose with its ends joined by a tee to the supply hose can be used effectively for washing prints. Laid in the bottom of a tray, the ring distributes water over a large area and prevents formation of stagnant pockets under the



prints. These rings can be purchased complete or one could be made up from hose and a brass tee. The perforations in the circular part are about ½ in. apart.

-John Modroch, Danbury, Conn.

A Thermometer for Ten Cents

Any cheap thermometer can be adapted for dark-room use by marking the glass tube with a file at the 65 and 70° points and then removing it from its wooden base. The file marks will show white against the red column.—William Swallow, Brooklyn, N. Y.



Linear Distortion Is Corrected by Inverting the Camera

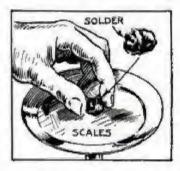


Linear distortion, often encountered when shooting downward on certain objects, can be corrected easily if your camera has a rising front and can be mounted on the tripod upside

down. With the type of camera shown, this is done by tilting the universal tripod head at a 90° angle and mounting the camera as indicated.—E. Hall, Los Angeles, Calif.

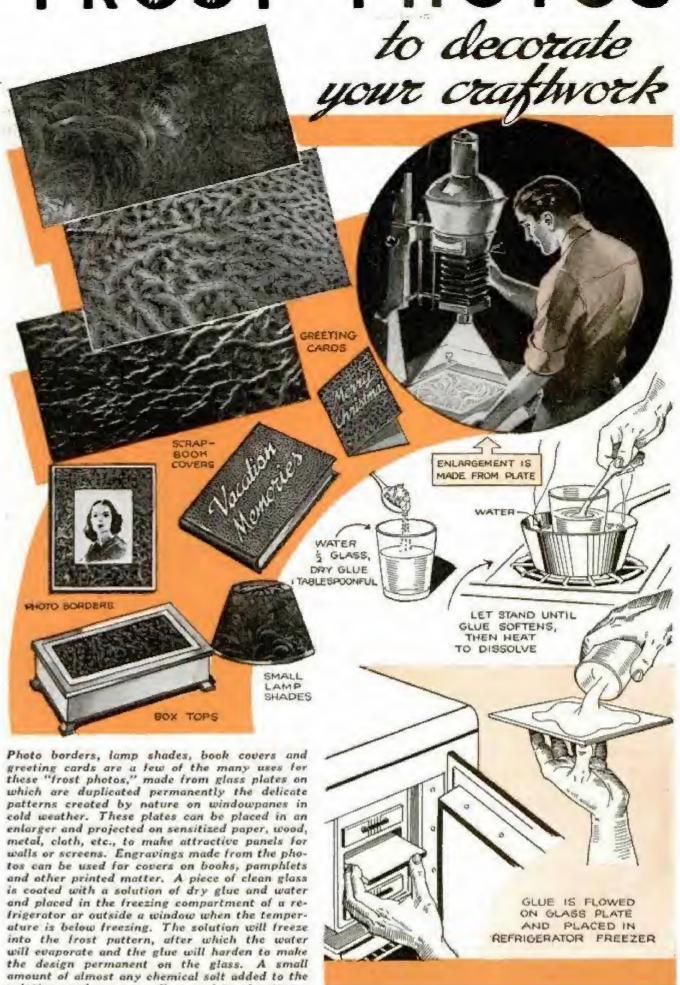
Extra Weights for Photo Scale

Lacking metric weights for my darkroom scale, I made a set from lengths of wire solder. These were trimmed carefully to the correct weight and rolled



into a tight coil, after which one end was flattened and the correct weight stamped on it.—Kenneth Murray, Colon, Mich.

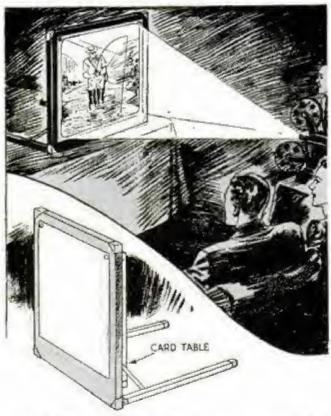
"FROST" PHOTOS



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solution produces an endless variety of patterns

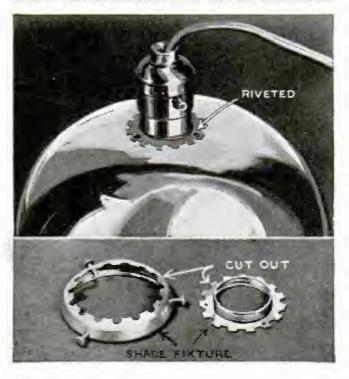
Folding Card Table Holds Screen for Showing Home Movies



A folding card table is convenient for mounting the screen when showing home movies. The table, with two legs open, is placed on any suitable horizontal surface and the screen is fastened on with thumbtacks or strips of gummed tape.

Reflector Made from Bowl Screws to Light Socket

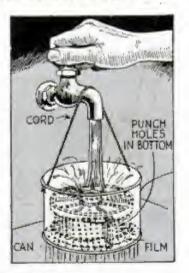
The problem of fastening a lamp socket to an aluminum bowl for use as a reflector



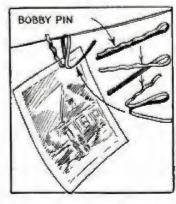
can be solved with a shade holder. Only the center part of the shade holder is used, this being cut out and riveted to the bowl so that the threaded portion projects through a hole cut to accommodate it.

Films Are Washed in Coffee Can Hung on the Sink Faucet

Placed in a perforated 1-lb. coffee
can and hung on a
sink faucet, film in
a developing-tank
reel can be washed
quickly and thoroughly. Let the
water run fast
enough to keep the
reel covered and
all hypo will be
w a s h e d o u t
through the holes.



Bobby-Pin Clips Hold Negatives on Line for Drying



Sturdy clips made from bobby pins are used by one photo fan for holding his films on the line for drying. The legs of a pin are pulled into the crossed position shown and then bent

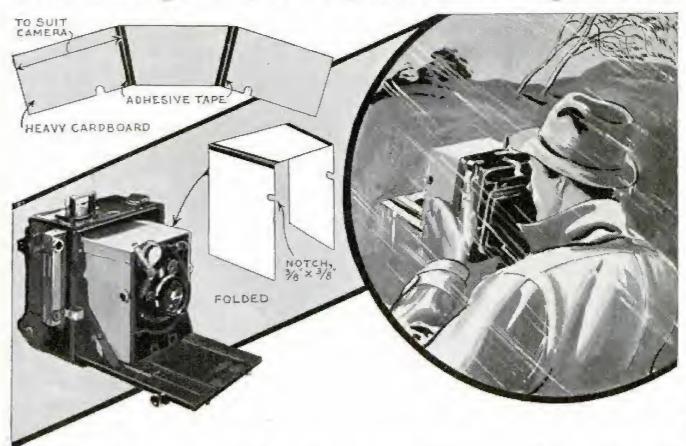
back at an angle. Pressure on the ends of the pin will open the clip which, when released, will grip the film securely.

Developing Extra Large Prints without Special Equipment

Amateur photographers who occasionally want to develop a print too large for their trays need not buy special equipment for the job. I cover a table with a piece of oilcloth, lay the exposed paper face up in the center and swab on the developer with a viscose sponge, swabbing rapidly to avoid streaks. Shortstop bath and fixing solution are applied in the same manner and the bathtub provides a convenient place for the final washing.

-John B. Cleaveland, Gladstone, N. J.

Shield Stops "Bellows Flutter" in High Wind



Everyone who has attempted to take photographs by holding an ordinary bellows-type camera outside the cockpit of an airplane has noticed fuzziness in the finished prints, even when the shots were made at high speed. This is caused by "bellows flutter" and is even evident in some photos taken on the ground in a strong wind. A shield of heavy cardboard or light sheet metal will eliminate this trouble and also protect the bellows in rain

or snow. Three pieces of cardboard, cut to fit over the top and sides of the bellows, are fastened together with adhesive tape. On some cameras the front of the shield can be notched to fit over the adjusting screws, but if this is inconvenient it can be fastened to the bed of the camera with tape. If the shield is to be used in rain or snow, it should be given a couple of coats of shellac.

otect the bellows in rain —J. H. Dougherty, San Diego, Calif.

Leather Parts of a Camera Cleaned with Rubber Cement

Leather parts of a camera will continue to look like new if they are given an occasional cleaning with rubber cement. Apply a heavy coat on the leather and allow it to dry; then rub it off with a clean cloth and all particles of dirt will come with it.

Making Glossy Prints Lie Flat

The following solution is the best I have ever found for making ferrotyped prints remain flat after they dry: Glycerin, 1 part; alcohol, 1 part; water, 4 parts. The solution is brushed evenly on the backs of the prints after they have been squeegeed on the ferrotype tins.

-George W. Bucklin, Lincoln, Nebr.



Thermometer Is Held with Wax to Bottom of Tray



I have fitted several of my trays with cheap calendar thermometers which are attached by embedding them in melted paraffin. After applying the paraffin at the ends only, the graduations are marked on the bottom of the tray, pouring in water at known temperatures and checking with an accurate thermometer. The marks are made with a pencil, then the water is poured out and they are traced with India ink and covered with more melted paraffin.

—Edwin L. Bond, Roland Park, Md.

Draining the Developing Tank

Time consumed in pouring solutions from a developing tank into a bottle can be used for other purposes if you place the tank in a glass funnel and let it drain. An average quart bottle is heavy enough not to tip when the tank is placed on



it. Set the tank in the funnel carefully so the lid will not slip and admit light.

It's a Pleasure to Use Motorized Tools



Cabinet Bench-898

DRILL PRESS-895: Pipe fittings. ½-in, chuck and ball-bearing spindle. 28 in, high-25c.

WOODTURNING LATHE-1056: Self-contained unit, mounted on stand. 4-speed belt drive-25c.

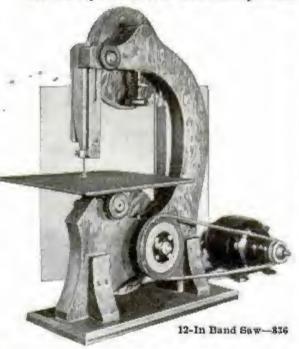
CIRCULAR SAW TABLE—910: Angle-iron frame. 24 by 36-in. table. 10-in. blade—25c. 22-IN. SCROLL SAW—771: Pipe fittings and

hardwood. Has sewing-machine drive—25:.
"STROKER" BELT SANDER—1057: Ideal for wide boards. Wooden framework. Table adjustable—25c.

VERTICAL SPINDLE SANDER—560: Wood table 10 by 17 in. Has 2½ by 4-in, sanding drum—25c.

You'll save time and labor by equipping your shop with these low-cost homemade machines, and 20-drawer workbench. Whether you want a shop for pleasure or profit, our plans will give you all of the information you need

CABINET BENCH—898: Nearly 8 ft. long, 27 in. wide, 35 in. high. 20 drawers—25c. 12-IN. BANDSAW—836: Smooth running and sturdy. Cuts 2-in. stock easily—25c.



Any six of these plans (not projects) will be sent postpaid upon receipt of \$1.00. Catalog listing over 400 plans included free with your order if specified, or sent separately for 3 cents to cover mailing

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20

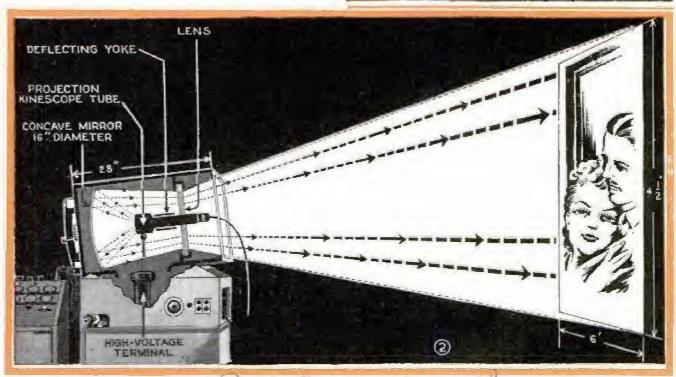


Large-Screen TELEVISION

A N AUDIENCE of 200 recently saw a full hour television program projected on a screen 4½ by 6 feet, with sufficient brightness and definition to be viewed in comfort from any point in the N.B.C. studio where the event took place. The apparatus was built as an intermediate step in developing units for the projection of larger images suitable for use in theaters.

The newly developed "kinescope" laboratory model projection tube shown in Photo 1, looks something like a large flashlight. This is pointed away from the screen on which the scenes appear. The images formed on the tube's fluorescent surface are only 2.4 by 3.2 in. in size. This small but very brilliant image is picked up by a 16-in, concave mirror which magnifies the pictures over 20 times before reflecting them through a glass lens and thence onto the screen placed 20 feet away, as indicated in the cross-section drawing Fig. 2.



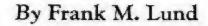


OCTOBER, 1940

2 mgg Co -des

COMPACT PUSH-BUTTON

(A)



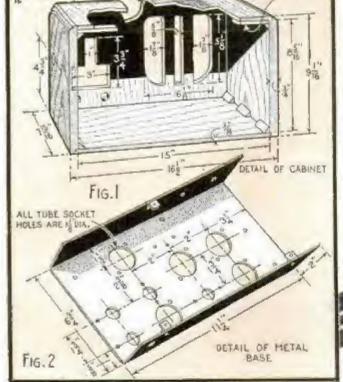
A LTHOUGH designed primarily for the best tone quality possible in a small set, nothing has been overlooked that would add to the convenience and utility of this compact 5-tube superheterodyne table-type receiver. The outstanding feature is in the tone-control circuit. With this system of tone control it is now possible for a small set to have a bass response comparable to

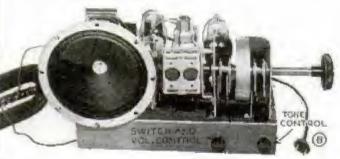
that of a large receiver, as this "humped" audio tone control actually amplifies and peaks the low tones without distortion. Other features include, mechanical pushbutton tuning, adequate filtering for humfree reception, automatic volume control, built-in loop antenna and a 6-in. electro-

dynamic speaker.

All materials are available from mailorder parts houses, and have been carefully selected to produce efficient results
at reasonable cost. Although the set is
not designed for beginners, it is quite
simple and well within the building range
of the average experimenter. Cabinet
and base details are given in Figs. 1 and
2 for those who wish to build their own
and are equipped to do so. However, similar blank cabinets of suitable size are
available and the chassis base can be obtained formed and drilled if desired.

A complete simplified wiring diagram appears in Fig. 3. This shows a bottom view of the chassis base and all wiring including the leads up to the various parts mounted on top of the base, also the loop which is to be screwed to the inside of the cabinet as indicated in photo (A). Photos B, D and E show various views of the completed chassis base; a front view of the finished set is given in photo C, and the schematic circuit diagram appears in Fig. 4.





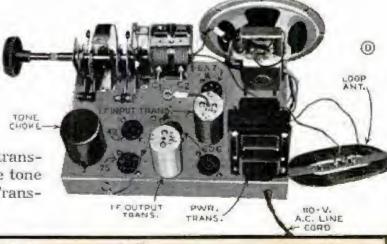
A.C. HIGH-FIDELITY FIVE

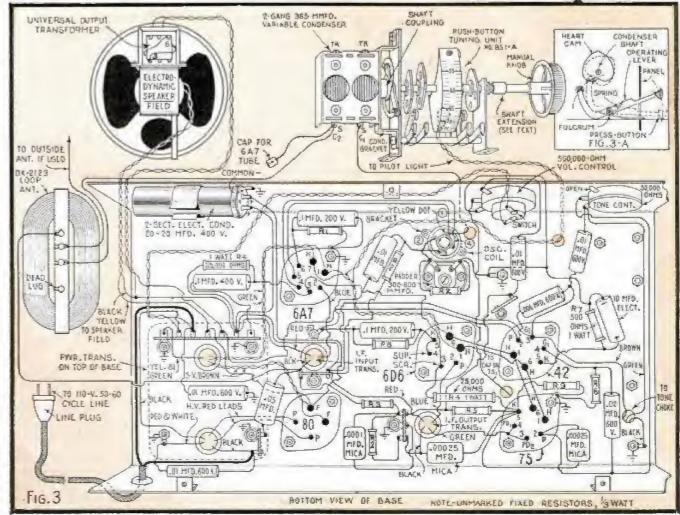
Mount all parts firmly on the base, using lock washers under all machine screw nuts, especially those under which soldering lugs are placed for the various ground connections. Make all grid and plate leads as short as possible and use rosin core solder for each soldered connection. The variable 2-gang condenser is a counterclockwise type mounted directly on the supporting bracket of the push-button tuning unit by means of a separate bracket and flexible shaft coupling, Fig. 3-A shows a sketch of the push-button tuning mechanism, which is quite simple and easy to adjust for any four favorite stations, without disturbing the usual manual tuning by

means of the large knob. The power transformer is a General No. 7745, and the tone choke is also made by the General Trans-

(Continued to page 114A)







Extension Speaker for the Recreation Room

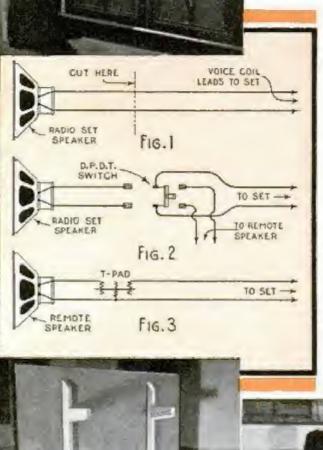
PANCE music "piped" to the basement recreation room, from a large radio-phonograph located on an upper floor, offers several distinct advantages, costs less than a separate set, and the system is easy to install. The full efficiency of the large set audio amplifier can be maintained easily at the location of the remote speaker if proper baffling is employed and careful attention given to a few important details. The materials used in the installation shown below

The materials used in the installation shown below cost about \$25 and include the following items: one 4 by 5-ft. sheet of 1-in. soft-pressed board; one 12-in. permanent-magnet speaker; one "T-pad"; one d.p.d.t. toggle switch, and a suitable length of 2-conductor cord. The conductor cord should not exceed 75 ft. in length and should be run in conduit as directly as possible.

Owing to the wide variety of receivers without standard coded speaker connections no specific di-

rections can be given for locating the voice coil leads in all sets. However, this information is easily obtained from manufacturers' service sheets or your local radio serviceman. These leads are cut as shown in Fig. 1 and the d.p.d.t. switch inserted as indicated in Fig. 2. This switch can be mounted directly on the back of the radio cabinet and is used to cut in one speaker at a time as desired. When buying the remote speaker and T-pad be sure that they match the set speaker. For example, if the set speaker impedance is 8 ohms, the extension speaker and T-pad must also be 8 ohms.

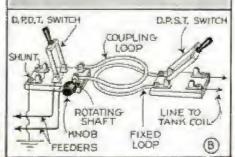
At the remote speaker the electrical hook-up is very simple. The T-pad is connected in the line as shown in Fig. 3, following the instructions that come with it. This unit acts as a volume control at the remote location and may be omitted if volume is controlled at the set.



Practical RADIO SUGGESTIONS

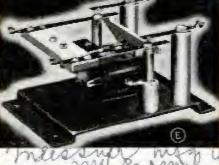


(A) Illuminated radio tools aid experimenters and servicemen. "Lucite" shafts supply a brilliant glow for working in dark corners. Screwdriver is used to adjust I.F. transformer trimmers, and the hooker to test for loose wires. They may be used with either flashlight batteries or electric-cord attachments



(B) Simple adjustable coupling arrangement in low-power feeders for obtaining maximum feeding of antenna. Ordinary porcelain switches are mounted on a suitable base about 1 It. apart; shunted terminals provide safety ground. (C) Semi-precision resistor connected in series with one test lead of any set-testing voltmeter converts meter to measure high voltages of value greater than its maximum scale. Set test-meter selector switch at scale nearest 10 volts and use 1,000 ohms for every volt to be measured, provided your unit has the usual sensitivity of 1,000 ohms per volt. (D) "Fiber-glass" flexible resistors operate at high temperatures without charring, burning or deterioration





(E) Antenna-switching relay suitable for any type of experimental high-frequency switching. (F) Small electrolytic condensers easily assembled in required values and strapped together to form any filter block combination. (G) Interchangeable 2 and 3-pole receptacles and plugs for serviceman's kit. (H) Rotating base acts as turntable for small standard set; permits user to turn receiver for maximum signal strength from built-in loop antenna





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619

Television, Radio and Phonograph in De Luxe Combination



At the touch of a switch, this versatile combination unit becomes a "sharp focus" television receiver, a high-fidelity automatic phonograph, or a radio broadcast and short-wave receiver. Thirty-three tubes, including a 12-in. picture tube, are used on television, and 10 tubes are employed on radio reception. Audio system consists of push-pull beam-power amplifier with 12-in. studio-type speaker.

Two-Unit Push-Button Auto Set

Designed with a separate 6-in, speaker provided with a bracket for mounting behind the grille opening on the dash board of the newer cars, this 6-tube push-button set is easily installed and may be trans-



ferred quickly from one car to another without difficulty. An 8-in, cabinet speaker is available for mounting on the bulkhead of any car not equipped with a grille.

Wide-Range Monitor Speaker

Although designed for broad-cast-control room monitoring, this 60 to 10,000-cycle response speaker is also recommended for other applications where high quality is important.



Time Switch for Kitchen Radio



The automatic time control of this electric range is employed to turn on the kitchen radio when the young lady's favorite program is due. Normally the device provides automatic control of three cooking circuits in the range.

[Blueprints covering radio construction articles in this and past issues are available for 25 cents each. Original material lists, with names of manufacturers and dealers, can be obtained from our Radio Department upon receipt of postage.

NEXT MONTH—How to Build a Wearable Hearing Aid. Three of the new miniature-type tubes are employed in this unusually compact low-cost hearing-aid amplifier which is easily concealed on the person. Also—Simple Battery-Set Amplifier for Any One-Tube Receiver. May also be used as amplifier for record player.



SHOP NOTES

High-Speed HAND GRINDER carves, drills and polishes

By A. L. MILLS

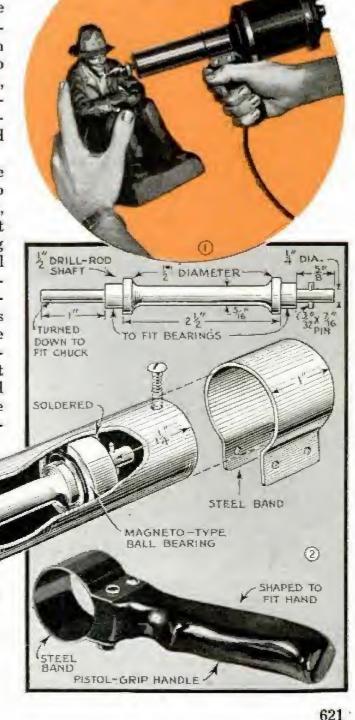
RUILT around a small motor of the type used in high-speed electrical appliances, the sturdy hand grinder shown in Fig. 1, when fitted with a collet chuck to take small carving bits and accessories, makes a versatile workshop tool. Essentially, the job consists of adding an extension shaft and housing to the motor and

providing a handle.

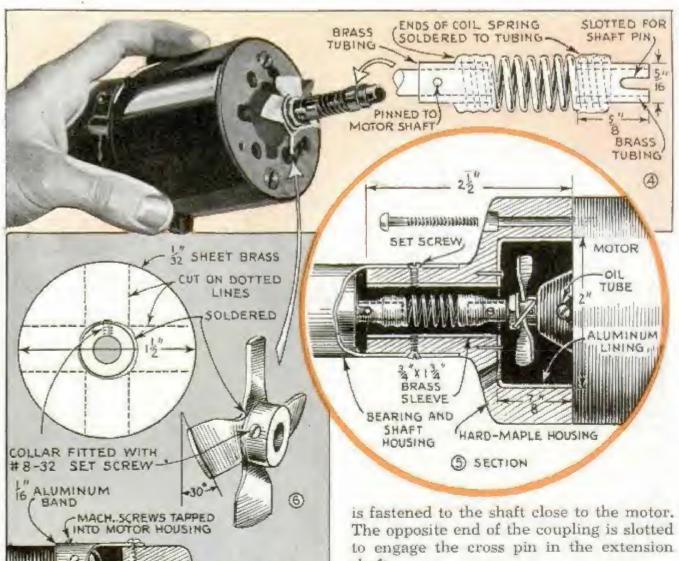
The steel shaft is machined to the size detailed in Fig. 2. One end is turned to accommodate a standard collet chuck. while the other end is fitted with a short tight-fitting pin to engage a slotted spring coupling. Standard magneto-type ball bearings are used to support the shaft inside the 1%-in, steel tube. The rear bearing is mounted $1\frac{1}{4}$ in, from the end and is bushed with shim brass to a press fit inside the tubing, after which the bearing is soldered permanently in place. The front bearing is likewise shimmed, but is held in place with liquid solder to make the shaft removable for future bearing re-

> SHAFT ASSEMBLY

STEEL TUBING,



FURNED WOOD PLUG



VEHT HOLES

METHOD OF ATTACHING HOUSING

TO ROUND-NOSE

MOTOR

placement and inspection. When this is necessary the solder is loosened with a knife to free the bearing. A rabbeted hardwood plug, backed with a felt disk, is turned to fit snugly in the end of the tubing flush with the outside and is fastened in place with three short wood screws as

shown in Fig. 3.

0

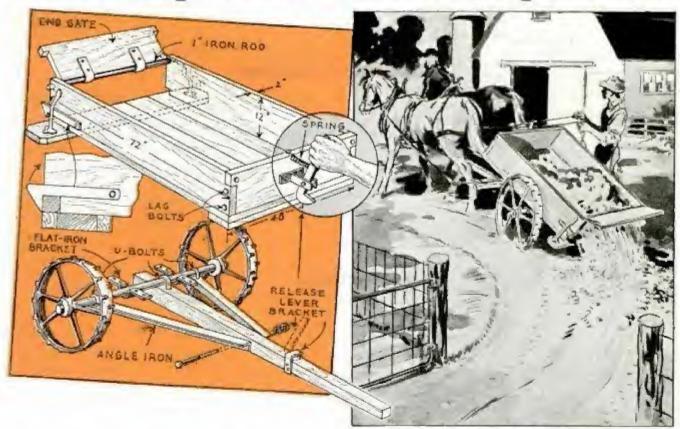
Fig. 4 shows a simple universal shaft coupling which consists of a short length of brass tubing soldered to each end of a heavy coil spring. This is pinned permanently to the motor shaft after a small fan, formed from a sheet-brass disk as in Fig. 6,

shaft.

A counterbored hardwood cap to which the bearing-and-shaft assembly is fastened, must be made to fit the motor. Figs. 5 and 7 show two methods of attaching the cap to a motor. In the method shown in Fig. 7, it is important not to drill and tap the set-screw holes into the field coils of the motor. Regardless of the method used, the counterboring of the cap in either case is identical. Fig. 5 details how the extension is fastened solidly to the cap by means of oval-headed set screws drawn up tightly in holes tapped through the side of a brass sleeve inserted in one end. If desired, an aluminum lining, formed in the shape of a cup and held in place with short pins, can be used in the fan well as it adds strength to the wood. A series of 1/4-in. vent holes around the face of the cap are drilled through at an angle into the fan well to admit air to the motor.

The pistol-grip handle shown in Fig. 2, is shaped to fit the hand and is attached to the shaft extension at about the center of balance. It is important that the shaft turns clockwise, especially when the unit is to be used for drilling and carving.

Farm Dump Truck Saves Shoveling Off Load



For hauling jobs around a farm, an inexpensive dump truck like the one above is just the thing. It saves wear and tear on your grain wagon, and it is handy for hauling feed into hog and cow lots where many farmers let it stand until used. In the original, a discarded mowing machine provided the wheels and axle, and boards and iron picked up here and there furnished the rest of the material. The body is pivoted to the axle with U-shaped brackets. It should be pivoted just slightly off the center of balance so that it has a tendency to tip toward the rear. In this way, the load will dump of its own weight when the release lever at the front is pulled. Notice that a coil spring keeps a tension on the lever to prevent vibration from loosening it when the truck is in motion.

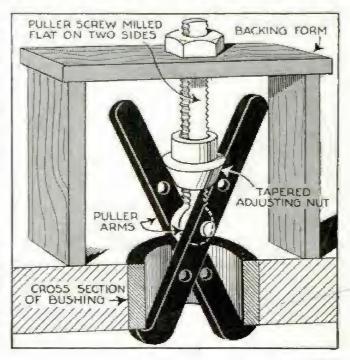
—L. S. Metford, Salmon Arm, B.C., Can.

This Improvised Bushing Puller Handles Occasional Jobs

In small shops where only an occasional job of removing a bushing or bearing does not warrant the purchase of a puller, this inexpensive one will solve the problem. Running the tapered adjusting nut up or down the puller screw spaces the jaws of the puller arm for bushings of various sizes. The backing form or support for the assembly is metal, heavy enough to stand the pressure of pulling a bushing.

EVERYBODY IS AN INVENTOR

Nearly everybody has discovered some kink or shortcut to solve one of those seemingly trivial problems encountered in every home or in a person's work, hobby and play. But the solution may have saved time, money and energy. We pay for such ideas. Submit a sketch or photo and a brief description to our Homecraft Editor. If acceptable for publication, we will send you a check promptly and if we cannot use it, the material will be returned.



Box Fits on Shop Hand Truck for Carting Small Packages



When a number of small packages had to be moved on a hand truck, one foreman fitted the truck with a large box. Angle irons screwed to the bottom of the box straddled the cross members of the truck to hold the box in position.

Removing Flies from Dairy Cows

By simply building a passageway in front of his dairy-barn entrance doors and suspending ropes inside it as shown, one



dairyman removed flies from his cows before they entered the barn. The ropes are frayed back several inches from the lower ends so that they serve as brushes when the animals walk under them.

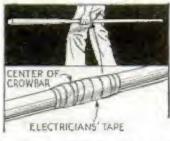
Broomstick Holds Feed Basket under Grain Spout

To support a large basket while filling it from a grain spout, one farmer bored holes through the spout for the insertion of a length of broomstick. This is anchored



securely in place to project an equal distance at each side of the spout and the basket is attached or detached by a simple movement from side to side.

Tape Marks Center of Balance on Tapered Crowbar



Shifting a tapered, heavy crowbar back and forth in the hand to find the center of weight or balance for carrying, is avoided by one

railway section boss who wrapped it with electric tape as indicated. Also, the tape protects the hands from being injured on the bar if it has been left lying in the hot sun along the roadway.

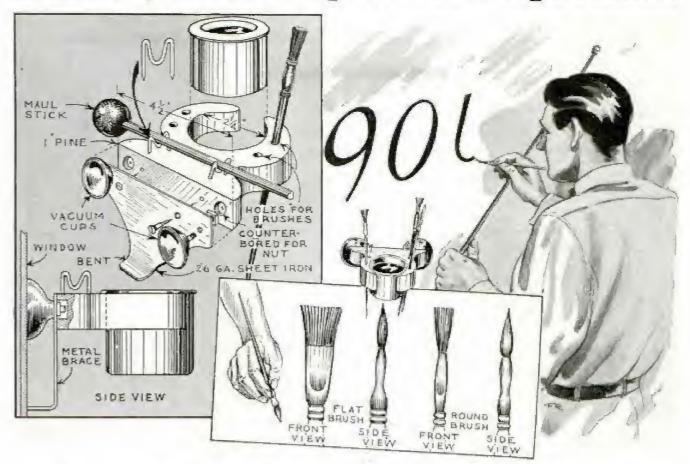
Rat Traps Baited with Candle

In places where many rat traps were set regularly every day, the task of baiting them was simplified by using a tallow candle. The lighted candle was held over the bait pans to drop a



quantity of the tallow on each one, where it solidified and adhered so that a rodent could not remove it without being caught.

Accessory Holder Helps Window Sign Painter



Attached to a show window with vacuum cups, this holder keeps sign painter's accessories within easy reach. The one shown will accommodate a can of paint, maulstick and four brushes. If desired, the holder can be made to take more than one paint can. Be sure, however, to provide vacuum cups large enough to support the weight. In addition to using the holder to simplify my work as a sign painter, I find that slight indentations made in the brush ferrules as shown in the lower detail, improve the grip and tend to eliminate tiring muscle strain.—S. Haber, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Lathe Tool-Post Holder for Grinder of the Small Hand Type

I have found that a model-A Ford connecting rod is just the thing to use as a lathe tool-post holder for one of the small, portable hand grinders of the type shown. The wristpin end of the rod was cut off and the shank ground down to slip into the tool post.—D. Fulmer, Columbus, Ohio.

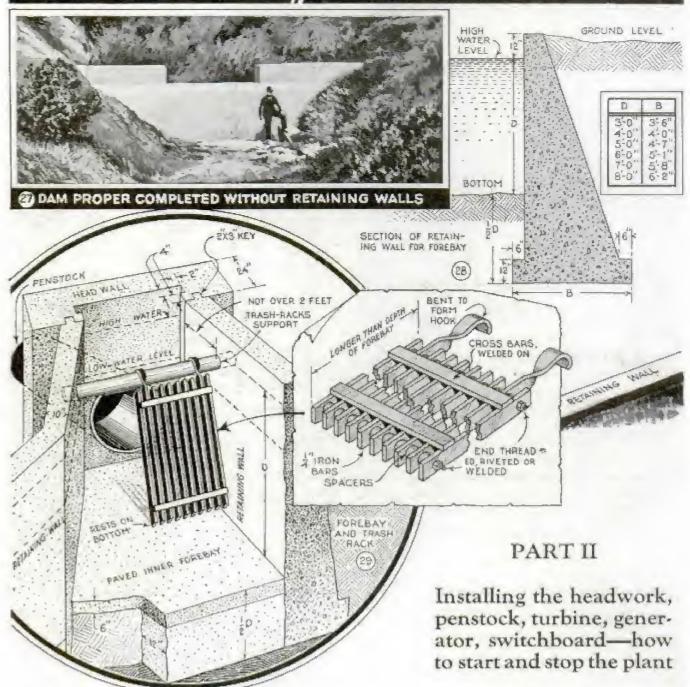
Patching Sacks with Cement

The next time you have grain sacks to repair, try applying the patches with regular tire cement. Coat the patch, and the surface of the sack around the hole, with the cement. Allow the cement to dry until it takes on a dull appearance. Then press the patch in place. Turn the sack wrong side out and apply cement around the edges of the hole, and then press the patch with a hot iron.



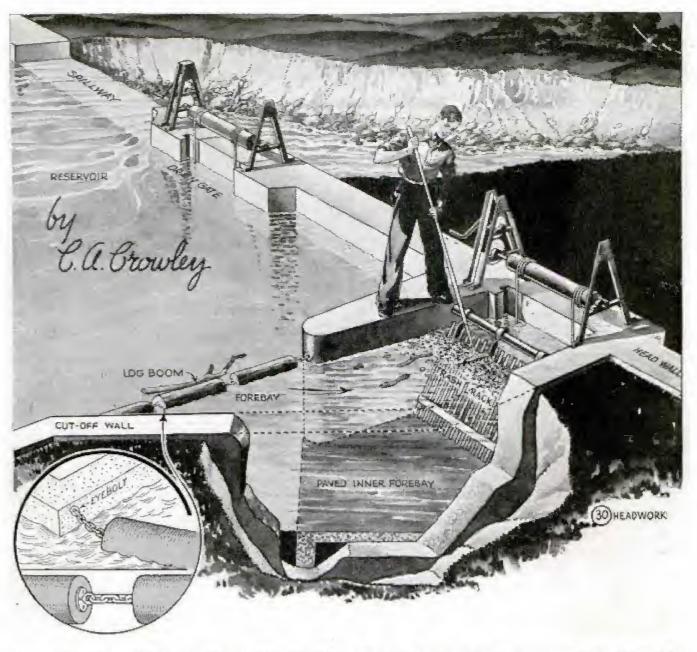
OCTOBER, 1940 625

POWER from small streams



A SSUMING that the dam proper has been poured, you are at the stage shown in Fig. 27, which pictures a small dam from the upstream side. At this point the headwork has not yet been built. In many cases it may be convenient to build part of the forebay integral with the dam.

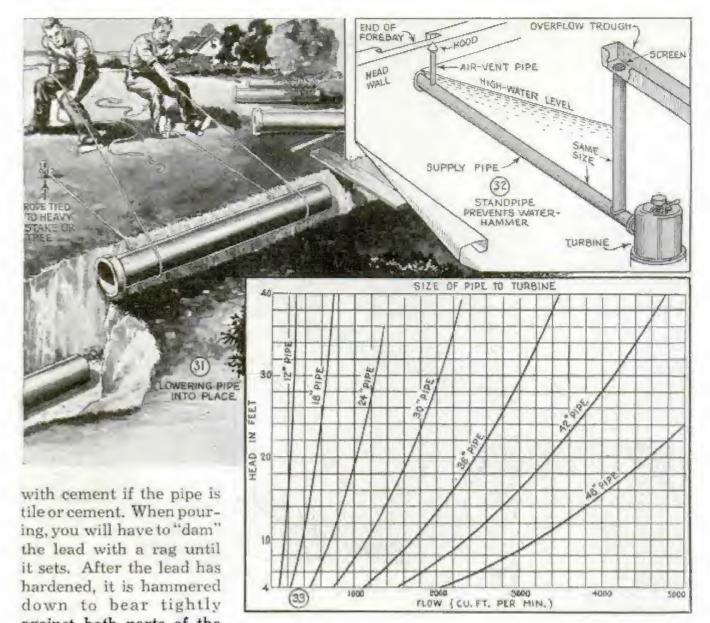
The headwork: In a hydroelectric plant the headwork comprises the intake for the water, gates, trash racks, etc., as illustrated in Fig. 30. The forebay, Fig. 29, serves the purpose of confining water where it is free from turbulence so that sand and dirt may settle before the water goes through the penstock to the turbine. A trash rack prevents debris from entering the penstock, and a log boom is provided at the mouth of the forebay to keep out large floating debris and ice cakes. The forebay should be considerably larger in cross section than the penstock and widest at its mouth. Two sides are retaining walls and the third side, which has the penstock opening, is the head wall. The latter may be poured integral with the dam and should have a guide formed in the concrete to take either a gate as in Fig. 18, Part I, or stop logs so that the flow of water to the turbine can be stopped. Stop logs are heavy timbers weighted with metal and



serve as a gate. Each stop log is fitted with a couple of eyebolts to facilitate handling it. The portion of the forebay nearest the head wall should have a concrete bottom. Usually the width of the paving should be twice the height of the head wall but never less than 6 ft. Length and size of the retaining walls are variable with conditions, such as the size of the reservoir, speed of water flow against the banks, etc. Construction of retaining walls is shown in Fig. 28. The width of footing B varies with the height D as indicated in the table. Retaining walls, head wall and paving should be keyed together to prevent seepage.

Size of conduit or penstock: The penstock, which extends at an angle from the forebay to the turbine, should be run as straight as possible, avoiding bends, which greatly increase friction. You can use concrete, tile or iron pipe, having bell-andspigot type joints. After a ditch has been dug to a depth below the frost line, sections of pipe can be lowered into it easily as shown in Fig. 31. If the pipe line is not much longer than 100 ft., you follow the chart in Fig. 33 to select the pipe size required for your installation, which depends on the head of water and on the required flow per minute. Should your requirements be between two pipe sizes, always select the larger size. If the line is longer than 100 ft., you find the size of pipe as follows: Multiply the head in feet by 100 and divide the product by the length of the pipe. Now locate this number, instead of the head, along the left-hand margin of the chart, and find the flow at the bottom, after which the pipe size is selected.

Calking pipe joints: Pipe joints must be calked tightly. Cement mortar is used for concrete pipe, wetting the pipe thoroughly before applying the mortar. To calk tile and cast-iron pipe, you first tamp oakum or hemp tightly into the joint. Then fill up with molten lead, if the pipe is iron, or



against both parts of the joint, to make it waterproof. After completing the pipe line it should be left uncovered for some time to see if any leaks develop.

Air vent and standpipe on penstock: Also, the pipe line should be provided with an air vent and a standpipe as in Fig. 32. The latter must be the same size pipe as the penstock, and it is connected with a T-fitting. It must extend as high as the water level at the headwork. A flume or discharge channel is also provided. Such a standpipe is essential to prevent "water hammer" which occurs when the turbine gates are closed too quickly, and has been known to wreck entire plants. The air vent at the top of the conduit is installed to prevent collapse of the wall on account of a vacuum produced when water supply from the forebay is suddenly stopped by closing the gate.

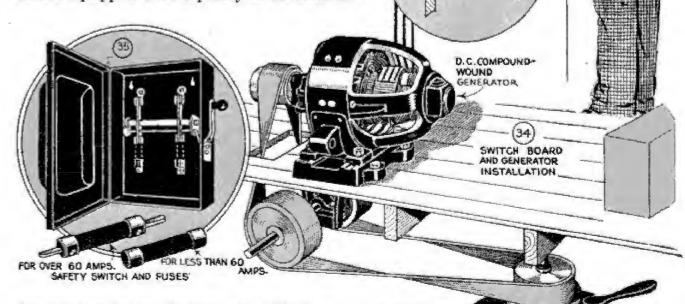
Turbine installation: Horizontal or vertical-type turbines are available. The latter type is shown in Fig. 11 of Part I. A

belt drive with a quarter turn to transmit the power to the generator is shown in Fig. 34. A horizontal type turbine can be coupled directly to the generator. The turbine is installed in the powerhouse, and is supported over a concrete tailrace, which carries away spent water. The penstock connects to the outer case (scroll case) of the turbine. Gates inside of the turbine control the flow of water to the rotating member or "runner" centered in an inner casing. Water is discharged through the draft tube into the tailrace, which should be of concrete and of adequate size to carry off all water. The walls of the tailrace may serve as the turbine support, or steel I-beams or heavy timbers may be placed across the tailrace walls to serve as a support. At this time the size of the turbine needed for the installation has already been determined by methods explained in Part I.

The generator: You can install either a d.c. or an a.c. generator, preferably one

producing 110-120 volts, and of sufficient capacity for the power requirements as outlined in Part I. If an a.c. generator is used, you will have to provide a separate "exciter"—a small generator to energize the field coils of the larger generator. Appliances such as motors must be either d.c. or a.c. to correspond with the generator, and if a.c., there must be similarity of design also in respect to cycles. The capacity of a generator is given in kilowatts (a kilowatt equals 1,000 watts), and as the power demand in watts is known (see Part I), it is easy to convert watts to kilowatts. For example, in Fig. 10 of Part I, 20,000 watts are equal to 20 kilowatts.

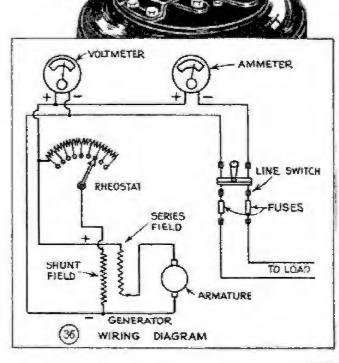
Pulley and belt sizes: To produce electricity at its rated capacity, the generator must be run at a certain speed, which is easy to control by providing the right size pulleys on generator and turbine. Usually a generator comes equipped with a pulley of suitable di-



TURBINE

ameter and width. Suppose that the generator is to run at 1,200 r.p.m., and has a 10-in. pulley. Then the proper size pulley for the turbine is found by multiplying 1,200 by 10 and dividing the product by the speed of the turbine. (See step H of Fig. 10, Part I.) The turbine speed is about 200 r.p.m., and the pulley on the turbine would have to be 60 in. in diameter.

Belt width is also variable and is determined by multiplying the horsepower (hp.) produced by the turbine by 3,050 and then dividing the product by the figure obtained when you multiply the generator speed by the generator pulley size. For example, to drive a generator from a 7-hp. turbine assuming that the generator runs at 1,200 r.p.m. and has a 10-in. pulley, the belt width would be 7 times 3,050, or 21,350 divided by (1,200 times 10) 12,000, which equals 1.8 in. approximately. The next



0-150 D.C. VOLTMETER

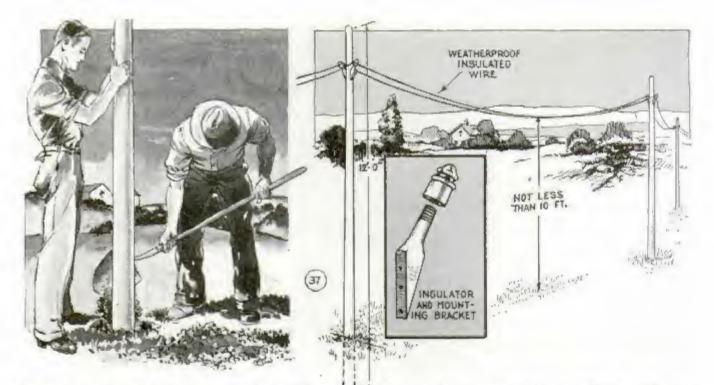
D.C. AMMETER

STO. PIPE

NIPPLE.

BAKELITE

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Magazine.

larger standard belt size, which is 2 in., should be used.

Switchboard and controls: Fig. 34 shows a switchboard fitted with a fused safety switch, a voltmeter, an ammeter and a field rheostat. These are connected as indicated in the wiring diagram, Fig. 36. If you have a d.c. generator, the meters should be d.c., but for an a.c. generator be sure to install a.c. meters. The voltmeter should have a range of from 0 to 150 volts, and the ammeter should have a range greater than the maximum current delivered by the generator. The current of the generator can be found by dividing the power of the generator in watts by the voltage. Thus, a 5-kilowatt, (kw.) or 5,000watt, generator designed for 125 volts produces a current equal to 5,000 divided by 125, or 40 amperes. Then a 0-50 ammeter should be used. The safety switch should be the double-pole, single-throw type having cartridge fuses as shown in Fig. 35. Fuse size is determined by ampere capacity of the generator; in the above example 40-amp, fuses should be used and the switch rating should be 50-amp., 250-volt, or more, as a matter of safety.

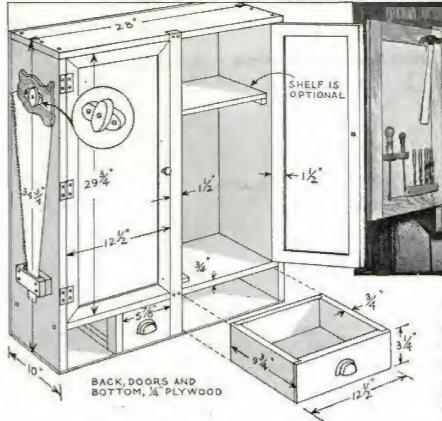
A compound-wound a.c. generator has two fields, a series field and a shunt field. See Fig. 36. To control the output, a rheostat is connected in series with the shunt field. The size of the rheostat needed can be obtained from the maker of the generator and he will also supply a diagram of the generator connections, which should be followed.

Wiring: The pole lines to the house and

outbuildings should be of No. 4 or heavier weatherproof insulated copper wire, mounted on glass insulators, as shown in Fig. 37. Poles should be spaced close enough together to prevent the wires from obstructing passage or otherwise causing a hazard. Inside house wiring should be done with No. 14 or, better, No. 12 or No. 10 standard rubber-insulated wire. It can be mounted by any standard approved methods according to underwriters' and by insurance requirements at the particular location. There are many good books available on house wiring and an article on this subject was published in the July and August, 1939, issues of Popular Mechanics

Starting the plant: With the rheostat set at zero and with the switch open, the flow of water through the pipe is started by slowly opening the head gate, having the turbine gates wide open at this time. It is important that this be done carefully as a rush of water may do considerable damage. The gates of the turbine are adjusted so that it turns at the proper speed. Then slowly turn the field rheostat and watch the voltage build up until it reaches 120 volts, which is a very good value to use as the voltage at the plant. Then close the switch so that the current is available at the house for light and power. When necessary to shut down the plant, first open the switch to remove the electrical load. Next turn the rheostat down until the voltmeter registers almost zero. Then the gate at the headwork should be closed slowly and the turbine gates are also closed.

Protect Your Hand Tools with This Cabinet



Whether you have a home workshop or possess only a few hand tools for general repair work about the home, you'll find this commodious yet compact cabinet just the thing to keep your tools neatly arranged, free of rust, and less apt to become misplaced. Items such as brads, nails and screws can be kept handy in three small

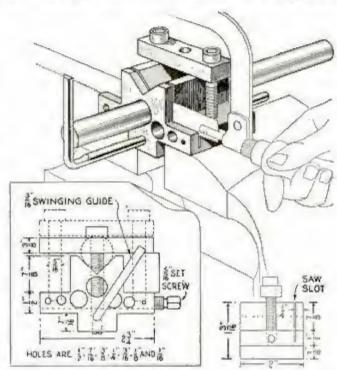
drawers fitted below, and by providing the doors with a hasp and padlock, you can keep sharp tools safe from youngsters. While handsaws may be hung on the outside of the case by means of wooden turnbuttons as shown, space can be

provided for them on the inside, if desired, by allowing the upper shelf to extend just to the center stile. Solid stock and plywood are combined in the construction, the door panels being fitted in grooved frames mitered at the corners. Use of wood screws instead of nails in the assembly tends to make the cabinet stronger.

Steel Gauge Holds Metal for Cutting to Identical Lengths

Milled from a small block of cold-rolled steel to clamp between the jaws of a bench vise, this simple cut-off gauge will prove handy when cutting accurately to length short pieces of round or square bar stock. As shown, a series of holes of varying size are drilled accurately through the block lengthwise after which a slot is cut at right angles, parallel to the face, to accommodate a hacksaw blade. The work when inserted in the proper hole in the gauge, is brought to rest against a sliding L-shape stop rod which is locked in the desired position by means of a set screw tapped in the bottom. Square stock can be held securely in the rabbeted ways of the gauge by providing a clamp across the top. A short steel block held by two long screws tapped into the gauge make up the clamp.

—M. B. Birge, Hinsdale, Ill.



OCTOBER, 1940 631

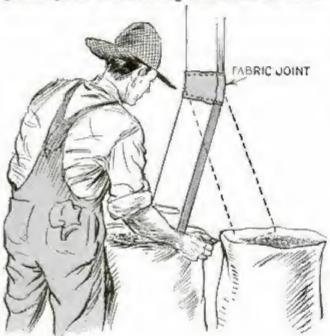
Office Trucks Rubber-Shielded to Protect Woodwork



In offices, stores, and other places where boxlike trucks of the castered type are used to move loads about the building, damage to the woodwork by the trucks can be avoided by shielding the sides and ends with rubber. A length of garden hose is ideal for this purpose, and can be attached with nails or screws. To do this, holes are punched through one side of the hose so that nails can be driven through it.

Hinged Grain Spout Saves Labor When Filling Sacks

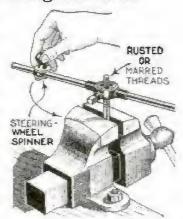
Much of the labor involved in moving sacks or baskets back and forth under a grain spout when filling them can be elim-



inated by hinging the spout so that it can be swung from side to side. The hinge joint is merely a piece of fabric cut from a discarded grain sack.

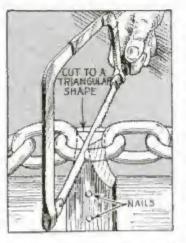
Steering Spinner on Die Stock Aids in Cleaning Threads

When I have a number of bolts on which the threads are to be cleaned or corrected slightly, I can save time by using a spinner from a car steering wheel on one handle of the stock. After the stock has been



started on the threaded work, the spinner permits it to be rotated with ease. The spinner is also a timesaver on light threading jobs where very little torque is required.—W. C. Wilhite, Carlinville, Ill.

Chain Links Cut with Hacksaw



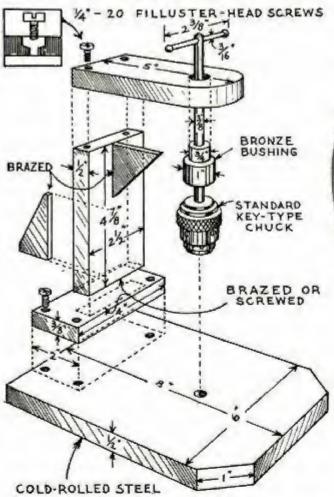
If you are out on a job where it is necessary to cut the link of a heavy chain and the only tool for the job you have at hand is a hacksaw, try the illustrated method of holding the chain. Simply whittle one end of a wood strip to a

triangular shape to slip inside the link as indicated. When the strip is nailed to a table or other rigid surface and the link to be cut placed over it, you can saw right through the metal and the wood with ease.

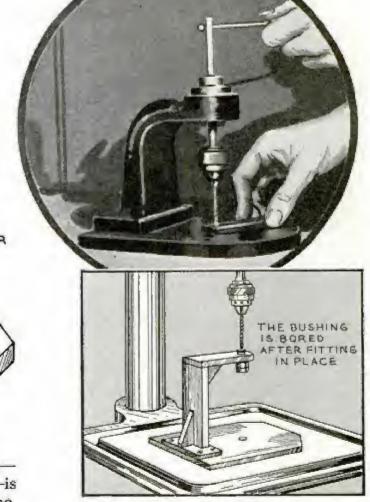
Diluted Acid Stains Wood

A simple wood stain can be made by slowly adding sulphuric acid, 1 pt., to water, 1 gal. The diluted acid burns some of the fibers in the wood, especially pine, and brings out beautiful silver-gray tints. It will not affect the wood by warping or fading it and many floors or pieces of furniture can be given excellent stains by experimenting with different acids.

Hand Tapping Machine Helps Avoid Breakage



One of the reasons for broken taps—starting them at an angle in the holes—is avoided with this simple tapping machine. It starts the taps straight so that they follow through the holes in perfect alignment, leaving a clean-cut thread. In the original machine, the gooseneck shaped part was a junked shaft hanger anchored on a base at right angles to the chuck spindle. However, it can be built up from flat stock if desired. It's best to bore the hole for the chuck spindle on a drill press



to assure that it will be at a 90° angle to the base. The hole is bushed to receive the spindle. Most any chuck can be used, but it is best to have one that can be tightened with a key or wrench to assure good gripping of the tap. Drilling the shaft near the upper end to receive a handle made from a length of steel rod completes the job.

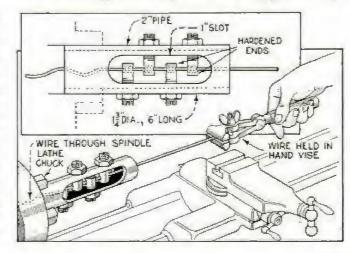
-V. Everson, West Orange, N. J.

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Jig Rotated in Lathe Straightens Lengths of Wire Quickly

Having an order to fill for a number of small pins to be made from ½6-in. wire, a machinist straightened the wire for the purpose with the jig shown. It was assembled from a turnbuckle, although a casting or short length of pipe will do. In use, the jig is chucked in a lathe and the wire pulled through it as the lathe rotates at high speed, using a hand vise or other clamp with which to grip it to prevent turning. The wire is fed into the jig through the hollow lathe spindle.

-James MacIntyre, Hartford, Conn.

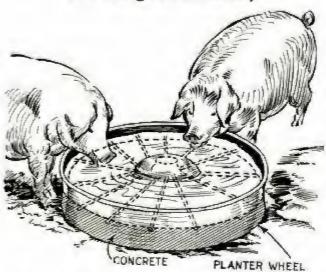


Inflated Sacks Help Store Clerk Select Proper Size of Bag



One grocer who often employed inexperienced clerks on "rush days" found that few of them could select the proper size paper bags from the hangers. Invariably they would take larger sacks than were necessary, thus adding much to the expense for these supplies over a period of time. To avoid this trouble as much as possible, he inflated one sack of each size and tied them above the racks as shown. The clerk, seeing the inflated sack, could judge the size of the one required.

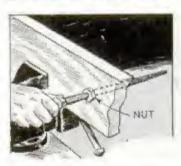
Planter Wheel Provides Trough for Hogs or Poultry



A feed trough that holds liquids for hogs or poultry can be made from an old cornplanter wheel. This is laid on a flat surface and filled up to the spokes with concrete, a mound of the latter being brought up over the top end of the hub to fill it. Heavy enough to prevent tipping, such a trough is made easily and will last indefinitely.

Nut Acts as Stop on Round File

Reaming out a hole without the file sticking is a simple matter when this improvised stop is used. Just select a nut slightly smaller than the hole to be



enlarged, slip it on the file and tighten with a pliers. When finished, the nut may be removed easily without harming the file.

Locating Flypaper in Window to Make It Inconspicuous

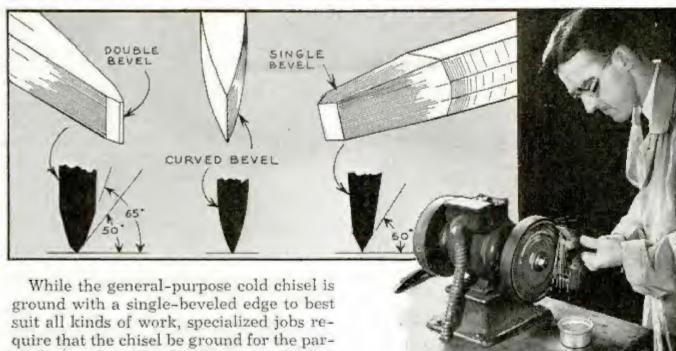


Flypaper hardly will be noticeable in show windows if it is cut into strips about 2 in, wide and cemented along the lower edges of the glass. In this position, it will catch the flies as they crawl along the lower parts of the windows.

Building Blocks Used as Floor in Chicken House

To avoid a damp floor in his chicken house, one poultryman makes the floor of building blocks. First, the ground is leveled off, then the concrete blocks are laid, after which they are covered with a layer of cheap felt roofing. On top of this, concrete is poured to a depth of 2 in. A tile at one corner takes care of drainage.

Grinding Your Cold Chisel to Suit the Work



While the general-purpose cold chisel is ground with a single-beveled edge to best suit all kinds of work, specialized jobs require that the chisel be ground for the particular work at hand. The man who has occasional jobs of the latter type can grind his chisel to suit. To do clean work on thin sheet metal or to make a deep cut in soft metals, the bevel on each side should be ground to a long curve. This type of bevel is also used in cutting off the peened ends of rivets. It will help still more if you flatten one bevel slightly for this work. For heavy work, a double bevel gives best results. The wider angle across the bevels

gives sufficient metal just above the cutting edge to prevent turning or chipping the edge. In the details above, the angles are only close approximations. The exact degree at which the bevels are cut is not so important as it is to have the bevels on both sides cut at the same angle.

-W. C. Lammey, Naperville, Ill.

Desk Slide Used for Sketching When Hinged in Center

By hinging one of the wooden slides in his office desk as indicated, one executive converted it into a handy and convenient sketching board. Also, he found that the underside surface of the hinged end provided a suitable place to conceal confidential price lists.

Cow's Horn Repairs Handle of Walking Plow

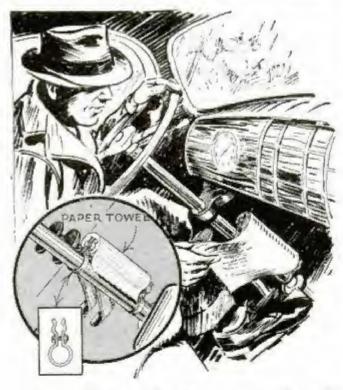


When the curved end of one handle of his walking plow was accidentally broken off, one farmer repaired it for temporary use by slipping a cow's horn over the end. Thus

urgent work was done in the field while a new part was being ordered.



Paper Towels Kept Handy in Auto If Attached to Steering Column

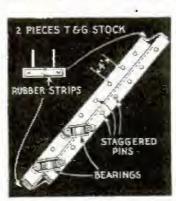


A small-size roll of paper towels will have many uses if kept handy on the steering-post housing of your car. The roll is held to the housing by means of spring clips which allow the roller to be removed easily and at the same time provide enough tension to hold the roll firmly in place.

-Everett Hanson, Argyle, Wis.

Block to Hold Bearing Caps Keeps Them in Sequence

There will be no chance of getting the bearing caps and shims replaced in the wrong positions during a bearing job if you use this sliding block to keep them

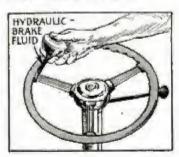


until time for reassembly. The block consists of two 1-in. pieces of tongue-and-groove material about 2 in. wide. Provide 8 pairs of wood or metal pegs, projecting 2 in. above the surface and about 4

in. apart. The two parts are held together by two strips of inner-tube rubber, one at each end, as shown. As these are stretched tight before fastening them in place, the two parts are held firmly together. Bearing caps, shims and nuts from any make of car are easily accommodated by this holder by sliding one part parallel to the other. This staggers the pairs of pins until they are the proper distance apart for the holes in the caps. When the first cap is set over the first pair of pins, the rest are automatically spaced for the remaining caps. Paint a stripe on the holder at one end so there will be no chance of mistaking the front cap when re-assembling.

Squeaks in Steering Wheel Stopped with Brake Fluid

Creaking noises that sometimes occur in the banjo or shockproof type of steering wheels can be silenced by applying a small amount of hydraulic-brake fluid at



the sockets of the crossbars. Use an oilcan for the purpose, and wipe off the excess fluid.—Emil J. Novak, Omaha, Nebr.

Creeper Rollers on Tool Box Aid Mechanic under Car

The difficulty of sliding a heavy tool box about, while working underneath a car, is overcome by fitting the box with rollers or casters of the type used on creepers. In this way, the mechanic can keep his tools and supplies under the car with him and move them about to be within easy reach.





NOT unlike your own body, which must be in good condition if you are to avoid illness during winter, your car, too, must be "healthy" if it operates efficiently in zero weather. Besides changing to lighter lubricants you also flush and clean the cooling system for which a number of commercial cleaners are available. It is equally important to check and make minor adjustments on the ignition and fuel systems, brakes and tires before winter starts. While changing lubricants, don't overlook the rear axle and transmission, Fig. 3, which should be flushed thoroughly. Also inspect the water pump, Fig. 1.

After taking care of lubrication and the cooling system, go over the ignition system, starting with the battery, which is the "heart" of the system. A battery is often damaged by overcharging and overheating on long trips during summer. If the cells vary more than 25 points as shown by the hydrometer, Fig. 2, the battery should be taken to an expert. Low gravity in one cell commonly means that the sep-

arators are allowing the plates to "short," or that the plates have dissipated much of their active material. Under such conditions, total failure of the battery may result on the first cold morning. Be sure that the terminals are clean and tight, too. To keep the battery charged in winter when electrical requirements are likely to increase and input decrease, be sure that the generator is working efficiently. Fig. 4 illustrates the things to do. Blow out dust and clean the commutator with fine sandpaper. Also, remove accumulations of copper and carbon dust from between the segments with a hacksaw blade ground on

Differential cleaned thoroughly

OCTOBER, 1940 637



spected. If the points are burned, replacement will pay in easier starting and smoother running of the motor, to say nothing of better gas mileage. If the plug points are in good condition, space them correctly. If no other information is at hand, set them at .025 in. Next comes the distributor, Fig. 5. See that the faces of the breaker points are smooth and square with each other. Unless other information is at hand, space them .018 in., except Fords, which should be .0125 to .0135 in. Now examine the distributor cap for cracks and replace it if any are found. Good plugs and an efficient distributor will not help if the high-tension wires are in bad condition. If the insulation is frayed as in Fig. 6, current will leak, and it should be replaced. Also check the wires in the distributor sockets for corrosion, which sets up a high resistance to the passage of current.

Now for the starting motor. Remove and clean it and put a few drops of oil on the bearings. Most starter bearings are self-oiling,

but in time a little oil helps anyway. Then wash off the shaft with gasoline. Do not lubricate the shaft as any oil or grease here may cause a gum that will prevent the pinion from moving forward to engage the gear teeth on the flywheel.

With the foregoing attended to, warm up the

the end to form a hook shape. The presence of such material causes partial "shorts," which reduce output and increase heating. Then with the commutator smooth and clean, put in new brushes if the old ones are oily or appear worn. To be sure that the current from the generator gets to the battery without undue resistance, smooth the generator cutout points with a very fine file. Spark plugs should be removed and in-

Don't overlook the distributor

POPULAR MECHANICS

6 Renew frayed cables

motor and adjust the carburetor so that it runs smoothly. Set the arm of the carburetor accelerating pump on the "W" position for winter operation. Clean the carburetor screens, and don't neglect the screen in the fuel pump. Replace the screen if the least bit damaged, and when reassembling the pump, it is best to use a new cork gasket at the top of the glass sediment bowl, Leakage at this point will cause the pump to fail. Next remove and wash the carburetor air cleaner as well as the one in the breather pipe of the motor. Now is a good time to disconnect the gas line from the pump and blow it out with the tire pump.

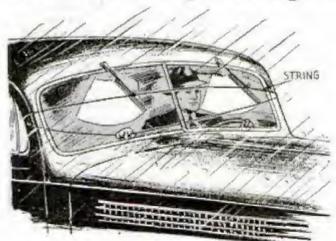
Brakes are especially vital in winter, and perfect equalization is essential due to slippery conditions of the roads. Remove the wheels and blow out dust from the drums and shoes, Fig. 7. If not removed, the dust may be wetted when driving on slushy roads and cause the brakes to

fail. Inspect the shoes for high rivets. If any are rubbing on the drum, install new lining. Then, aside from the usual service of refilling the master cylinder and adjust-



ing the brakes, all points of movement, such as pins, cams and the like should get a drop of oil. Also, front-wheel bearings should be cleaned, greased and adjusted.

Windshield Wiper Is Operated Manually in Emergency

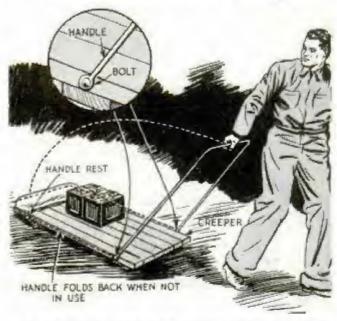


If you are ever caught in a storm and the windshield wiper fails to work, you can operate it manually with a string. Just run the latter through the openings of the nodraft ventilators and tie the ends to the wiper as indicated. Then by moving the string back and forth with the hand the wiper will clean the windshield.

(When checking wheel alignment drive straight across the platform. A slight shift of weight or thrust may make the test inaccurate.

OCTOBER, 1940 639

Creeper Fitted with Iron Handle Hauls Batteries in Garage



Instead of carrying heavy storage batteries from the charging room to various parts of the shop, one mechanic moves them on a creeper, which he fitted with a handle. When not in use, the handle is swung over to rest on the rear end of the creeper, out of the way.

One Cause of Fuel Pump Failure

An apparent shortage of fuel at high speed and on hills with a V-type motor was traced to a short stroke in the pump.

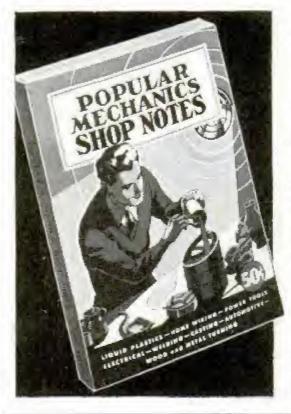
The reduction of the stroke was caused by wear of the operating rod connecting the pump arm with the operating cam. A repair was made by welding a small amount of metal to the end of the rod.

—A. H. Vance, Linn Creek, Mo.

Folding Track Moves Coal Truck over Soft Lawns

To avoid cutting up a lawn when backing a coal truck up to deliver coal in a
basement, one dealer used these portable
tracks. They are made by stapling wide
boards to ropes or wire cables as shown.
The tracks are made in lengths suitable for
easy handling when they are rolled up.





Every Mechanic Needs this Helper

This new volume contains hundreds of practical, money-making, time and labor saving ideas which you will find invaluable in your work. No man who uses tools can afford to be without this book. It contains 192 pages, 298 articles and more than 700 illustrations.

There are articles on woodworking, carpentry, metalworking, electricity, auto mechanics and plastics. Here are just a few of the other subjects covered: Wood joints, castings and molds, new waterproof finish, auto electrical testing, wallboard and how to use it, shadowless light, blast burners, brazing saw blades, building a belt sander, and sharpening joiner knives.

In addition, there are hundreds of hints and short cuts which will help you in your shop, at home or on the farm. Don't miss this new edition.

Price 50 cents

POPULAR MECHANICS PRESS

200 East Ontario Street

Chicago



RAILWAY EXPRESS - SYMBOL OF DEPENDABLE SERVICE... USES DEPENDABLE

CHAMPION SPARK PLUGS!

IN CITIES AND TOWNS all over the United States, the familiar Railway Express truck is a symbol of dependable, speedy, safe delivery. Over 12,000 of these trucks are constantly on the go regardless of weather. Dependability is the watchword.

This giant fleet has used Champion Spark Plugs for years. Here is just one more outstanding proof that Champions make every engine a better performing engine—one more sound reason for you to insist on dependable Champion Spark Plugs for your car,

Only Champion Spark Plugs have the Sillment seal which keeps them permanently free from trouble-some leakage, common to ordinary spark plugs. Since only one "leaker" in a set will cause rough, uneven, wasteful engine operation, it is obvious that Champion's leak-proof qualities are necessary to maximum performance and economy. Profit by the experience of the nation's largest and most efficient fleets—of the world's racing champions on land, water and in the air—by insisting on Champions for your car.

MODEL BUILDERS-ATTENTION!

ACTUAL SIZE V-PLUG



Champion Spark Plugs for model gas engines give the same dependable performance as the regular Champions. Sillimanite insulator. Alloy needlepoint electrodes for casy starting. One piece construction,

CHAMPION SPARK PLUG CO. 988 Upton Ave. • Toledo, Obio-

	V	V-2	V-3
HeI	1/4"	36"	%s"
Thread	3/6 24	1/4"- 32	1/4 - 32
Thread Length	7/32	7/32	5/32
Weight, Grams	8	31/2	21/2

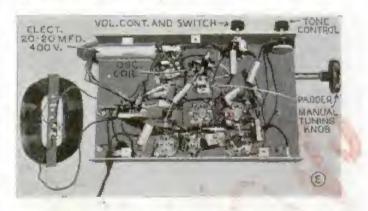
Compact Push-Button A.C. High-Fidelity Five

(Continued from page 617)

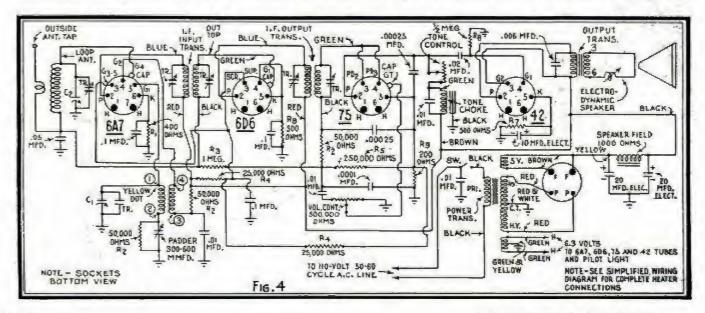
former company. DX-type input and output I.F. transformers are Nos. 5826 and 5827 respectively. The "Crowe" dial assembly and mechanical tuning mechanism is No. 851-A and must include the set of shaft extensions necessary to bring the manual tuning knob out beyond the side of the cabinet. The oscillator coil is a DX No. 2161 unshielded variety. A 2-in. machine screw with 3 half-inch bushings support the 6-in. electro-dynamic speaker directly on the base. This speaker has a 1,000-ohm field and output transformer for the type 42 tube. The volume control is a 500,000ohm type with No. 6 curve and is provided with a switch. A GE-51 6.3-volt pilot light is used. To take down the manual tuning knob assembly, remove the large screw in the center of the knob; next slide the collar with the knurled end off the end of the shaft, and then unscrew the shaft extension. For assembling, reverse these steps; when sliding the collar on the shaft engage slot and key carefully so as to lock shaft to tuning condenser shaft. A detailed list of materials is available from Popular Mechanics radio department without charge.

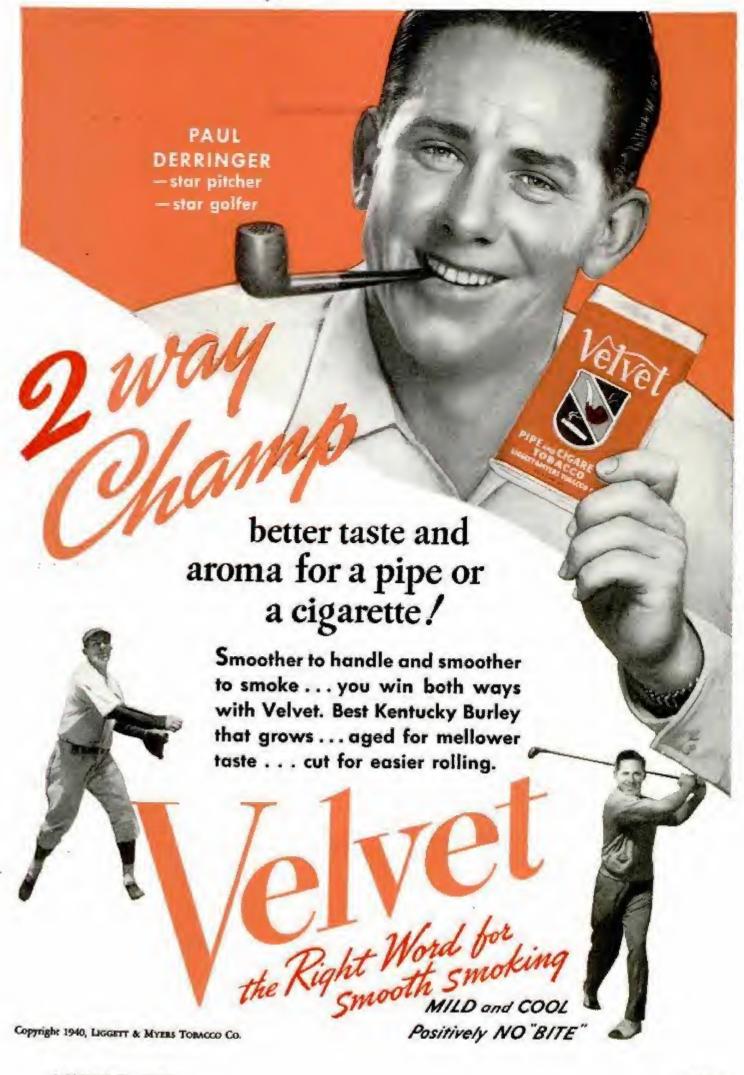
To balance the set outside the cabinet: set the loop antenna in a vertical position, and tune in some station with the manual tuning knob, at about 1,500 kc., or, with the ganged condenser plates about seven-eighths out. Turn the trimmer (Tr) on the rear (C2) section of the variable condenser with a small screwdriver until the station is heard at maximum volume. Next tunes the set to a station at about 600 kc., and adjust the padder condenser screw, that

extends through a small hole in the top of the base, at the same time keeping the station tuned in with the manual tuning knob, until the station comes in at the loudest point. The oscillator section (C1) trimmer (Tr) should be set one-eighth turn from tight. After the above operations are completed, again tune in some weak station near 600 kc. and adjust trimmers (Tr) in the tops of the I.F. transformers for maxi-



mum volume. The set now can be installed in the cabinet as shown in photo (A). Select four of your favorité local stations and set them up in their frequency order in the dial escutcheon windows. To set the automatic tuner, loosen the screw in the center of the manual tuning knob with a screwdriver. Now tune in the first station by means of the manual knob, and, while holding this knob firmly, push down the station button as far as it will go. Repeat this process for the next three station buttons. When all have been adjusted correctly, hold the tuning knob firmly and tighten the screw in the center of the knob. The blueprint number for this article is R-283.





OCTOBER, 1940

Announcing

Willard

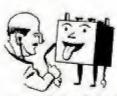
DRY BATTERIES and FLASHLIGHTS

New, Long lasting batteries for all purposes



or exceed U. S. Bureau of Standards specifications! Dated fresh at the factory. For your flashlights, radio or other use, ask for these new More-for-Your-Money Willards.

Safeguard Your Car against Starting failures



• Most starting failures are caused not by the battery, but by little things like worn or undersize cables, loose connections or faulty wiring that drain the life out of a perfectly good battery [138]

Your Willard dealer has a new Starting Service instrument that "X-rays" the entire starting system of your car—locates hidden "leaks" and flaws before they cause trouble. A Willard Starting Service check-up takes only a few minutes and will save you many a dollar—try it!

SEE OPPOSITE PAGE.

Willard

YOUR ASSURANCE OF QUALITY

Freight Trains of the Highway

(Continued from page 565)

ness during the past few years has progressed rapidly. Today it is a scientific industry with many opportunities for young men, whether drivers or mechanics, traffic clerks or platform men.

"Take driver Eddie Lewis and the other skippers of the fast overnights for example. They don't look like the burly truck drivers so often pictured. Not only do they have to attain a high degree of driving skill before qualifying for their jobs, but once employed they have to obey strict rules of healthful living to remain qualified. And they must have plenty of sleep.

"They have to carry their log books right with them. Interstate Commerce Commis-



Stalled by trouble in the Holland Tunnel at New York, a truck is towed out with one "foot" on a dolly

sion men who patrol the roads, state policemen, local peace officers may stop a truck and demand to see the log book. If the log shows a driver has been behind a wheel continuously for more than eight hours he has to do plenty of explaining.

"The big freighters are constantly checked from the time they roll into a terminal until they depart on another run with a full load.

"Every man engaged in operations has a highly important part to play in the maintenance of schedules. For example, the loader has become a specialist. He may load general or mixed cargo, box, barrel, case or crate goods or a combination of all. He has to load that cargo so it won't shift, and he must skillfully compute and arrange its weight distribution. A tractortrailer may be within the maximum weight requirements of the states it is driven through, but if the loader has not done his

(Continued to page 118A)

New improved Willards give you Extra advantages at NO extra cost!



LONGER LIFE

10-15% more miles and months

Former Willards were noted for power and long life, but these new Willards are still better. This year, Willard engineers have outdone themselves with a new, greatly improved line of batteries that give 10 to 15% longer average life than former Willards—and at no extra cost.

MORE RESERVE POWER

Plate materials increased 7-9%

-Heavier elements go into each cell of the new Willard batteries—either thicker plates, heavier plates or more plates. That means not only more life but more reserve power. These new Willards easily handle the extra current demands of modern cars—and like it.

GUARANTEED CAPACITIES

You know what you're getting
—Willard has clearly and
permanently molded the
guaranteed ampere hour capacity
in the case of each new Willard
battery. It's in plain sight. You see
exactly what you are getting. And
you pay only for what you get.
It's a guarantee of full measure
of battery value for your money.

"SAFETY-FILL" CONSTRUCTION

Stops Dangerous Corrosion

No acid spray on motor and wiring—With. "Safety-Fill," your Willard battery never drinks too much. It's very simple. Very effective. This exclusive new device prevents overfilling—definitely protects your automobile against corroded cables and terminals that cause current

losses and unexpected starting failures.

Your Willard dealer has these NEW batteries now. Look for his red-and-white Willard sign, or the name Willard in the classified section of your phone book under "Batteries."

WILLARD STORAGE BATTERY COMPANY

Cleveland . Dallas . Los Angeles . Toronto

Willard STOP SAFETY-FILL BATTERIES CORROSION

MORE BATTERY FOR YOUR MONEY!

work with precision, there may still be an overload on an axle or wheel."

The tractor-trailer combination seen in increasing numbers on America's vast network of roads may carry a load of "sealed freight" that was gathered from a hundred different firms in the city by pickup trucks or fliers. A large department store in New York City today may advertise a big clothing or food sale for tomorrow although the merchandise is still in a city 300 miles away. A manufacturing plant in Binghamton may need raw material from Newark by the following morning to keep up its production schedule, or a restaurant in Jersey City might require a barrel of oysters from Baltimore immediately.

At the Hoboken depot of W. T. Cowan, Inc., as in terminals of other large overnight freighters throughout the country, huge trailers are backed up against a long loading platform. On the other side of the platform speedy little fliers that gather freight locally are unloading. A continuous stream of loaders hurry the freight to the various trailers marked, "Baltimore," "Washington," and other cities, and begin stowing the cargo. When a "leaker" is

discovered—generally barrel goods which may dribble liquid—sawdust is piled around it to protect the rest of the cargo.

"While this is going on," Mr. Coughlin explains, "the tractors are being checked carefully from headlights to tires. The dual tires must be in perfect condition. So must the motor and every other mechanical detail. When the trailer has been loaded, it is sealed, the seal not to be broken until the destination is reached. Then the tractor is connected to the trailer, and the booster or air brakes are hooked up.

"The complete unit is inspected to see that everything is functioning properly. Then the driver is called. Before he gets into the cab he gets his safety box, containing flares, a red flag, fire extinguisher, fan belt and special equipment. The operations chief makes sure he's in perfect physical condition. Then only is the cargo ready to roll."

And roll it does, through the streets and onto the highways where Eddie Lewis and thousands like him are driving their big freighters on fast schedules, following the rules of the road and safety, setting an example for millions of other drivers.

K463

Keeping Tab on the Sun

(Continued from page 571)

tion of a second that it takes for the edge of the moon to shut off the light from a star. Using a supersensitive photoelectric cell to register the fading light, the interval between the time the moon begins to cut into the light from a star and the time the star completely disappears is measured and this information, together with other data, gives a close measurement of the star's size.

The universe is full of celestial shadows because each star in the light of another casts a faint shadow. A big star, blocking off light from a smaller one, throws a shadow in the shape of an endless megaphone. Stars of equal size create pencil-like shafts of shadow that extend to infinity. Such shadows, of course, are not apparent to us because one star that hides another is constantly radiating its own light. The Milky Way, the galaxy in which the solar system is situated, contains some fifty billion stars and it is estimated that these stars cast something like five trillion shad-

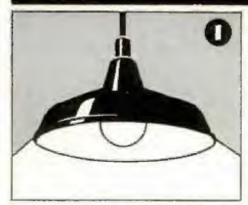
ows. Now and then, as in the case of two stars that revolve around a common center and that are called eclipsing binaries, the lack of light from one star during the time it is hidden behind the other gives astronomers information that they can't learn by studying the starlight alone.

Much as is known about stars in distant corners of the universe, the creation of our earth still remains a mystery. For a long time it was thought that the solar system was originally a whirling gaseous mass that eventually condensed into the sun and planets. The trouble with this idea is that the sun is too large and the planets are too small for the angular motion of the original gaseous cloud. More lately it has been supposed that the planets were born when another star passed close by the sun and pulled hot material out of the sun's mass. This year it was determined mathematically that such material would expand at such a rapid pace that the planets would

(Continued to page 120A)

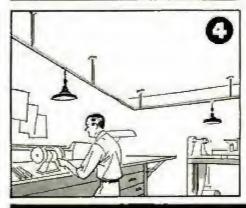
GOOD LIGHT

the most important tool in your Home Workshop





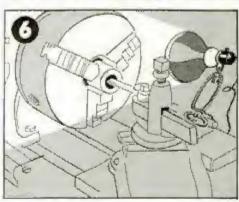


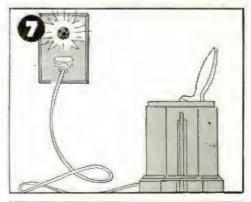


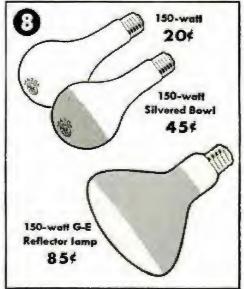
TRY THESE TIPS to get more out of it

- 1. In a small home workshop you need at least two 150-watt G-E MAZDA lamps in RLM reflectors. Be sure to mount units over front edge of bench, not halfway from front to back; you'll see pencil marks better.
- 2. For better light, put a 150-watt Silvered Bowl G-E MAZDA lamp in each reflector. The mirror-silvered reflector built into this bulb gives you generous, diffused light for easier seeing.
- 3. In a larger shop, you need more of these units. To have even lighting along the work bench, the distance between units should not be more than one and one-half times the distance from unit to bench.
- 4. For flexibility, some workers like this "trolley" lighting system. Lighting units glide on a "live" but protected channel... commercially available... to bring you light where you want it.
- 5. Need "daylight"?... for painting or other color discrimination? Look into fluorescent lighting with the new G-E MAZDA F "Daylight" lamps. It's cool, pleasing and abundant... in daylight quality.
- 6. Horizontal boring and many another job in workshop or home becomes easier with a handy utility light like this... a G-E MAZDA Reflector lamp in clamp-on socket, that helps you put light wherever you need it.
- 7. Avoid trouble, save steps and time: Use G-E MAZDA lamps (10c) to indicate "live" circuits... warning that your glue-pot is on... telling you, upstairs, that basement and bench light are "on."
- 8. Be sure that the lamp bulbs you use for your home workshop and all over your house are G-E MAZDA lamps,.. the kind that are made to stay brighter longer.









GE MAZDA LAMPS
GENERAL ELECTRIC

SECRETARIES SURE COME SMART THESE DAYS



smooth, fresh-feeling Barbasol Face his secretary told him to get. No harsh irritants in modern Barbasol to dry, tighten, coarsen the skin. Only bland ingredients that soothe the skin as well as soften the beard. Try Barbasol and see what wonders it works with your face in ten short days or so.

his wife. She's admiring that

YOU'RE RIGHT. He does have tender skin but shaves with Barbasol—with pleasure! Here's the secret! Barbasol is modern. Soothing, cooling cream that it is, Barbasol does the job of old-fashioned preparations without raising ned with your skin. Quickest, cleanest,



(Continued from page 118A)

not have had a chance to form, an objection that also applies to the idea that the sun once flared up and threw off the planetary material. Today the way the earth and the other planets were formed seems to be as great a mystery as ever.

A century ago astronomers who were trying to account for discrepancies in the orbits of the known planets believed that an undiscovered planet that they named Vulcan would be found close to the sun. The belief was supported when a small black disk was sighted against the sun's surface, then disproved when the disk was revealed as a sunspot. Vulcan was sought for until 1915 when Einstein's theory of relativity, applied to the solar system, explained planetary movements without the need for an additional one close to the sun.

Recently when Mars and the earth were comparatively close to each other in their orbits around the sun, several radio stations stood guard to receive any interplanetary signals that might pierce the atmosphere. Astronomers can't decide conclusively as to whether or not there is life on Mars, but one of them suggests that if there really are Martians they may be listening for signals from us just as we have been waiting for them to signal the earth. There is no reason why we shouldn't try to initiate the conversation, he adds, since there is already evidence that under certain conditions short-wave radio signals escape through the earth's atmosphere and are reflected back again from the moon.

Home Was Never Like This

(Continued from page 574)

Dry cleaning is entirely automatic. The valet looks over the garment to determine the formula required, then selects a "record" for that formula and plays it on the machine. This mechanical formula resembles a phonograph record slotted to play on a player-piano. It really is a time switch, the punched-out parts permitting electrical contacts at predetermined times.

As the machine starts, this "record" automatically admits the correct amount of cleaning fluid, revolves the drum slowly the required time, periodically reversing the direction. Then it stops the drum, drains the fluid, then revolves the drum rapidly to extract the remaining fluid by

centrifugal force. Meanwhile it turns the heat on the still, starts water in the condenser, to clean and recover every last drop of the fluid. Finally the drum is stopped while a deodorizer is admitted, after which it whirls again to extract this fluid, which also must be run through the still. The whole process takes twenty minutes.

The hotel's electric plant in the subbasement supplies current to run the elevators, light 25,000 electric bulbs, recondition the air. The hotel itself contains 1,020 miles of electric wire, and this doesn't include wiring for the 3,340 telephones. Two huge compressors furnish air for the pneumatic tubes, the laundry presses, and to agitate the ice. A central vacuum cleaner in the subbasement has 324 outlets. There are



This isn't the entire bakery, it's merely the shop where bread and rolls for hotel patrons are baked

112 miles of plumbing pipes, carrying hot, cold, and ice water to the 2,200 rooms. In summer 15,000 gallons of ice water are cooled each day, while 45,000 gallons of hot water are used—half a barrel a second.

The hotel has its own fire department, with as large a personnel as you will find in a city of 100,000. Every male employe is a member, has his own station, his special duties to perform should the alarm be sounded. There is a fire truck in the basement, with hose, chemical extinguishers and smoke masks, yet small enough to ride the elevators.

The telephone switchboard is the largest private exchange in the world, its thirty-five operators handling 250,000 calls a month. For three hours each morning seven operators do nothing but awaken guests. Supplementing the telephones are

(Continued to page 122A)



DU PONT SPEEDY WAX

(LIQUID)

 Putting a wax polish on your car isn't the long, tough job it used to be. With Du Pont Speedy Wax, you can now clean the finish and give it a beautiful wax polish in one easy operation. You do both jobs at once. Speedy Wax, is fine for all car finishes.

SCRATCHED FENDERS can be made to look like new. Use DUPONT TOUCH-UP BLACK. Dries in 30 minutes.

OF SANI-FLUSH WOULD CLEAN OUT THAT RADIATOR:

Don't risk unnecessary repair bills due to clogged radiators. Keep water circulating freely-keep motors running cool-with Sani-Flush. Cannot injure motor or fittings. Removes rust, sludge, scale, sediment. Keeps the delicate veins of a radiator clean,

Do the job yourself in a few minutes for 10c (25c for the largest truck or tractor). Or ask your service station to use Sani-Flush to do the job for you. You'll find Sani-Flush in most bathrooms for cleaning toilet bowls. Directions are printed on the can. Sold by grocery, drug, hardware, and 5-and-10c stores. 10c and 25c sizes. The Hygienic Products Co., Canton, Ohio.

ni-Flush

CLEANS OUT RADIATORS

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Get What You Pay For

(Continued from page 543)

Mercerized cotton burns less rapidly, leaves a little black ash, and does not smolder persistently when the flame is blown out. Mercerization is a chemical process that makes cotton stronger, smoother, and more resistant to soiling. Cottons with less desirable finishes flame like the untreated material; but they char rather than burn completely, and the ash retains the shape of the cloth.

Pure unweighted silk is labeled "Pure Dye Silk." Such labels as "Pure Silk," or "All Silk" are adopted for trade purposes,



Compare excellent cabinet work on dovetailing of top drawer with slipshod workmanship of lower one

and are no guarantee against weighting (and neither are they a positive indication of weighting-they are meaningless for purposes of fabric identification). Weighting is a perfectly legitimate process for making a little silk look like a lot. It improves appearance at the expense of wearing qualities. It is just the thing for relining a garment to last one more season, but not for lining a new garment that must last several seasons.

Pure dye silk burns rapidly with a blue flame, and gives off an odor of burning feathers. The ash is black, forming in shiny brittle balls at the edge of the material. Weighted silk is very difficult to ignite.

It chars rather than burns, and the ash retains the shape of the sample.

Rayon blazes rapidly. The ignited edge melts and curls into a hard brittle mass.

Wool does not flame much, but smolders, giving off a disagreeable odor of burning hair. The ash is crisp and black, with a tendency to curl up in an irregular mass.

These burning tests are inconclusive when more than one kind of fiber is used in the material. The proportion of wool or silk in a fabric can be determined by boiling a sample of the material for fifteen minutes in a pint of water, to which one tablespoonful of lye has been added. This will completely dissolve wool or silk, leaving the other fibers intact. The test, of course, will not work with silk and wool, for both fibers will be dissolved; but this is unimportant, for the two fibers are readily identified when combined, so that the proportion can be judged. The results of the lye tests with "Part Wool," "Wool and Cotton," or "Wool and Rayon" fabrics might surprise you, by showing what a small proportion of wool is actually used.

Linen burns so much like cotton that such a test is inconclusive. The break test tells you more. Ravel out a yarn from the material and pull on it steadily. Cotton will pull out gradually, leaving brush-like ends. Linen will offer more resistance, then snap suddenly, leaving pointed ends. Some linens with special finishes may break with a bushy end, like wool yarn; but the break will be sudden—the thread will not pull out gently, as does cotton made to imitate linen.

There is a vast difference in the wearing qualities of men's shirts. As with most manufactured articles, a good shirt is good all over, while a cheap one is made cheaply throughout. The Bureau of Home Economics recently laid down general rules by which the buyer may distinguish a good shirt from a poor one.

The good quality shirt will be of firmly woven, smooth fabric, with no loose threads on the surface. If colored, the color will be the same on front and back. The collar points will be well matched and sharp. There will be close, even stitching, about twenty stitches to the inch.

The buttons will be of well-shaped, wellmatched pearl, with four holes, and sewn on with many stitches. A shirt with two-

(Continued to page 126A)

SHORT CUTS FOR THE HOME CRAFTSMAN

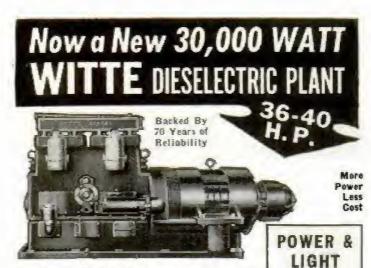


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hole buttons may be passed over as shoddy throughout. Buttonholes should be firm and neat; and large enough to slip over the buttons easily.

By removing a few pins, you can investigate further. The shirt will be full cut, which means the cuff will open out flat, the back will be rounded at the yoke, with pleats distributed rather than bunched in the center. The sleeves will be cut from one piece; not eked out with a V-shaped wedge and two seams that make ironing difficult.

Perhaps the salesman will not let you investigate these points. That, in itself, is a sign to be wary. The seller of good wares is proud to show their fine points.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture makes several tests of foodstuffs, that will help you get your money's worth if you know what to look for. All meat is inspected by the government, and on the edge of each carcass is stamped the quality in a blue harmless ink. This label may be read before the meat is cut up for the consumer. Ask the butcher to show it to you. The best beef, for instance, is marked U.S. Choice Steer. But cheaper cuts are perfectly safe. Inspectors allow no diseased meats to leave the packing house. The best eggs are marked U. S. Special. You can test eggs yourself by placing them in a pan of water. Those not fit for use will float, the large end up. Strictly fresh eggs will lie on their sides at the bottom of the

Steeplejacks of Mountain Peaks

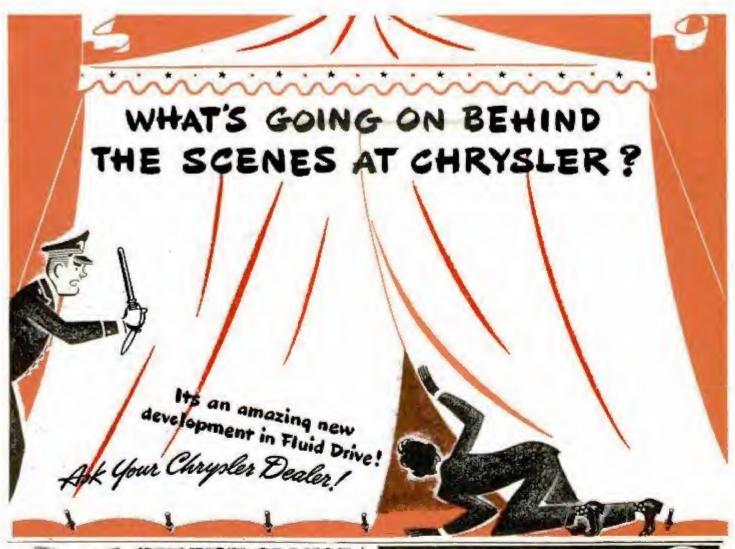
(Continued from page 549)

moving forward both her handholds broke off simultaneously, dropping her to dangle at the end of her rope below a piton until she could find holds again.

In spite of the high places climbers have ascended, the best of them can be stopped by a sheer face that has no cracks or projections that can be reached by one man standing on the shoulders of another. When such a situation is encountered another route must be sought.

Sheer precipices, steeply inclined ice, insecure treacherous rock, fresh snow on ice—these are the principal difficulties the mountaineers encounter. Climbing down

(Continued to page 128A)





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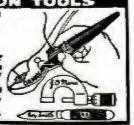
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again is sometimes more difficult than climbing up. There are really two kinds of climbers, those who are best at high-angle work and those who are best on ice and snow.

Not everyone is temperamentally suited for climbing the peaks like steeplejacks. Some become frightened in the pinches and "fight the mountain." Others take too many chances. Men who have received mechanical or technical training, members of the Sierra Club have found, seem to make the best and most dependable climbers. They can study their risks and apply their mechanical knowledge coolly.

Recently Mendenhall and another experienced climber were on Mount Baldy in southern California when a hiker slipped from the Devil's Backbone. At 8,300 feet and sheeted with ice, this ridge has precipitous sides. Nine people have fallen from it and eight of them were killed. On this occasion the hiker fell and slid downward 3,000 feet before coming to a stop. No one could tell if he was still alive, but if he was he was almost sure to die of exposure during the night. Mendenhall and his companion, armed with ice axes and wearing spiked crampons on their shoes, found him after dark. He was dazed but not

badly hurt, and they carried him to safety.

The very highest mountains of the world are also the most dangerous. These are Mount Everest in the Himalayas that stands 29,141 feet above sea level, and K², Kanchanjanga, and Nanga Parbat, all of which are in the Karakorum range in northern India and all of which are more than 26,000 feet high. None of these has been climbed and each has killed members of parties striving for the tops. Deadly Nanga Parbat alone has killed twenty-seven men. The extreme altitudes, the sudden changes in weather, and the unpredictable avalanches have driven back every expedition.

There are five major climbing grounds in the United States, the Cascades in the northwest, the Tetons in Wyoming, the Colorado Rockies, the Sierras in California, and the northern Appalachians. Members of the Sierra Club have climbed in all parts of the country and have ranged into Mexico and Alaska on difficult expeditions. This year members of the club are attacking unclimbed pinnacles in the Canadian Rockies and next year one group plans to attempt the 20,300 feet of Mount McKinley in Alaska while another expedition may assault a tall peak in Argentina.

The Age of Opportunity

(Continued from Colorato Section)

an electric wire over a compass needle and found the needle was deflected. He had searched for that a long while.

Faraday went a bit further and wound a coil. But in the simple act of winding a coil on a bar of iron the fundamental principle of the telegraph was developed, and Morse, taking that as a clue, succeeded in "inventing" the telegraph. But the distance between these elementary principles and the enormous communication system we have today represents millions of dollars of expended and invested money, hundreds of thousands of hours of toil and countless heartaches, discouragements, disappointments. Along came Bell, who in trying to improve the telegraph, gave us the telephone, and since his time thousands of unsung research workers have adapted that instrument to entirely unforeseen uses.

Each generation, in picking up what is

transmitted to it from preceding generations, has a firmer, surer footing, a better foundation upon which to base the structures it will rear in the future.

Some people like to hark back to "the age of opportunity." There never was such a thing. Or, rather, there is always an "age of opportunity." It was here yesterday, is with us now, and certainly will be here tomorrow.

I don't think there was ever a man born who wasn't born into an "age of opportunity." The main thing to remember is that opportunity is within us, is offered to rich and poor alike, is entirely democratic. But we dare not back into it, for we need to keep our eyes and our hands ahead.

Intelligent ignorance, that keeps a man dissatisfied with the wail, "It can't be done!" is a prerequisite for the research worker. And I think it holds equally true in any other field.



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New Tasks for War Balloons

(Continued from page 555)

these upper winds are essential to modern aviation, both military and civil. They are also essential to heavy artillery in wartime.

A larger and faster-rising balloon is the "high-pilot." Inflated to perhaps forty ounces of free lift and a diameter of slightly over three feet, the balloon will carry aloft any weight up to about ten ounces at a rise rate of 1,200 feet per minute. At around 40,000 feet altitude, having expanded to a diameter of eight feet or so in the rarefied upper air, the balloon bursts. From 1935 to 1937 the U. S. Army Meteorological Service made hundreds of test ascents with these high pilots. They even burst several of the balloons at high altitudes with timed charges of black powder, foreshadowing the aerial mines of the present war.

But when fog or clouds intervene between theodolite and balloon, upper winds have been satisfactorily found so far only by very expensive methods, such as flying an airplane along a drifting line of shellbursts (above the clouds). Here is where the "raypilot" comes into its own. In principle it is only a miniature radio transmitter hanging below the rising balloon. As it rises beyond the clouds, its successive positions in space are plotted from radio bearings taken by directional receivers.

Still far from perfect, despite plenty of research attention from government laboratories, the raypilot offers many opportunities to inventors qualified in radio and surveying. Only the balloon itself and a miniature radio transmitter are necessary at the sending end—the whole combination probably costing less than three dollars.

One upper-air quality that artillery officers must know for accurate shooting is "ballistic density." The density of the air, which affects the flight of the projectile, depends mostly on its temperature, but partly also on its moisture content. Therefore heavy artillerymen are interested in the existing values of temperature and humidity of all the air levels through which their big shells will be fired.

The simplest and quickest way of finding this ballistic density, up to altitudes of less than 20,000 feet, is by means of a sounding airplane. In a streamlined aluminum case, well out from the fuselage of the plane, are two large and easily read instruments—a thermometer and a hygrometer. As the pilot climbs steadily, the observer notes the readings of temperature and relative humidity at 500-foot intervals on his altimeter, and either notes them down or radios them to the ground.

But above 20,000 feet the time, trouble and expense of airplane sounding increase out of all proportion. Hence the "raysonde." This device is carried up to heights of ten miles or more by a rubber balloon, somewhat larger than the high-pilot, which starts at a diameter of about six feet.

Raysondes are now sent aloft by the U. S. Weather Bureau in the early morning, day in and day out, from several upper-air sounding stations scattered over the United States. These robot raysondes rise at 600 to 1,200 feet per minute, and send out a radio signal which is translated by an elaborate ground receiver into the values of upper atmospheric pressure, temperature and humidity being encountered by the balloon. This information is essential to modern, accurate, air-mass and front-analysis weather forecasting.

Still another wartime small-balloon idea, already considered by the British, involves the simultaneous release of thousands of small meteorological balloons as "aerial mines" against enemy airplanes. In the present form of the device, each balloon carries aloft, hung beneath it by a length of wire, a pound or so of TNT or other high explosive in a can fitted with sensitive contact fuses. The rising balloon, of course, drifts off to leeward with the prevailing wind, and continues to rise until it bursts. Any one of these small aerial mines would be capable of destroying any airplane hitting it, or even brushing by it.

Still another wartime job for these small balloons might be in carrying propaganda leaflets. Each little propaganda-balloon could carry, say, a pound or so of small leaflets. By some cold-proof clock or other mechanism yet to be perfected, the balloon could perhaps be made to release its leaflets in the stratosphere after two or three hours of flight. The leaflets would then be scattered over enemy territory.

Editor's note—(This article is written by the author in his capacity as a private citizen of the United States; it has no connection with his official U. S. Army position.)



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Winged Daredevils of Science

(Continued from page 517)

400 miles an hour, stalling at close to a hundred. It is doubly dangerous when the pilot must keep his plane absolutely level, keep the air-speed indicator at a constant reading, and work a stop-watch on the split second.

"Flying the sawtooth," so called because the barograph record resembles the business edge of a saw, is used to determine at what attitude the plane will climb fastest, at different heights. The pilot will climb from 1,000 to 2,000 feet at, say 380 miles an hour. Then, back to 1,000 feet, and with the same throttle setting he will pull the stick back until the air-speed meter reads 360 miles per hour, and so on.

A plane, you will understand, does not necessarily climb fastest (vertically) while the air-speed meter shows the highest reading. Neither does the rate of climb remain the same, for the same angle of incidence, at all altitudes. And since climbing ability is so important to a fighting ship, the maximum performance at all altitudes must be determined.

This sawtooth gets to be ticklish business as the plane nears its ceiling. Lieutenant Julian Hadden dropped his pencil while flying at 34,000 feet. To reach it he had to remove the oxygen breather from his mouth. Before he could get his hand on the pencil he passed out. He came to at 9,000 feet to find his plane in a power dive, and on fire. After pulling out and battling the flames until severely burned, he had to jump at 3,000 feet.

There are dozens of other tests these pilots must make. All of them are routine, most of them are dangerous.

Yet these pilots are not chosen for their devil-may-care attitude. Quite the contrary, they are the pick of the Air Corps brains, selected for their engineering background, and willingness to follow instructions to the letter though it might mean endangering their lives. Added to these qualities of steadiness must be extraordinary flying skill, and the faculty of thinking clearly in emergencies.

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The method used in holding the bearing in all Delta tools puts a definite amount of pressure on the bearing races so that the ball bearings ride against both of the races all of the time.

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If you want the best in power tools be sure that the bearings are "pre-loaded." Have the salesman demonstrate it to you and prove to you without a doubt that the ball bearings are pre-loaded.

Pre-loading is another superior exclusive feature of Delta tools—a feature not visible to the naked eye—a feature too often passed over lightly, yet one which is of vital importance to you,

• The massive design, advanced engineering, thoroughly studied design and accurate construction of this machine make it the finest 10" band saw ever offered to the craftsman. Its capacity under the guide makes it the equal of many machines of larger throat capacity. It has an exceptionally rugged heavy frame; double-sealed ball bearings lubricated for life; heavy cast-iron 11" x 11" table, micrometer adjustments in upper and lower guides and many other features. Some of its specifications include: Overall Dimensions: 33½" high; 11¾" wide; 23" front to back. Capacity: 10" blade

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wheel tilting device and tension scale similar to that used on 14" band saw. Both wheels and blade thoroughly guarded; only portion of blade actually used for cutting is ever exposed. For full details, prices on this and other Delta tools, fill out the coupon.

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133A

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OCTOBER, 1940



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Adventures of Highway Engineers

(Continued from page 533)

ters by radio, calling for help if they broke down or found the road blocked by fallen trees, and using their phones to advise the barriers as soon as the snow had been removed and the roads were safe.

Sitting in his enclosed cab, a snowplow driver received messages over a loud speaker and replied with the usual microphone equipment. His antenna, lying flat against the roof when not in use, is cranked to a height of twenty-three feet for communication. Day and night radio watches are kept at the central stations during storms. Five or six hundred inches of snow a season fall on some California highways and the 156 snowplows handle as much as 100,000,000 cubic yards of snow a year.

The engineers could build highways that would never be affected by bad weather but the cost is prohibitive. It is cheaper to repair damaged sections than it is to make a highway stormproof.

During one desert storm, in which three times the average annual rainfall fell in twenty-four hours, thirty-five miles of highway and the approaches to six bridges were destroyed. By turning to detours already mapped out the engineers restored normal traffic in forty-eight hours.

Imagination and the ability to improve on old methods are requisites of the engineers. Building a new road, they found that the rock of one mountain was shattered so badly that cutting into the slope for the new highway would cause dangerous slides. So they built a side-hill viaduct, literally a long bridge that wound around the mountain. They drove steel piling into the slope and erected the highway structure on top of the steel columns, with one side of the road resting against the side of the mountain.

The days are over when roads followed the easiest paths and were built the cheapest ways. A wide highway that strikes straight through the hills with few changes of direction or grade is safer and faster, carries more traffic, and lasts longer than the winding road that it replaces. Building the big highways is hard work and sometimes it's dangerous. Surveying parties may have to be lowered by ropes down cliffs to their stations. Dynamite crews

(Continued to page 137A)



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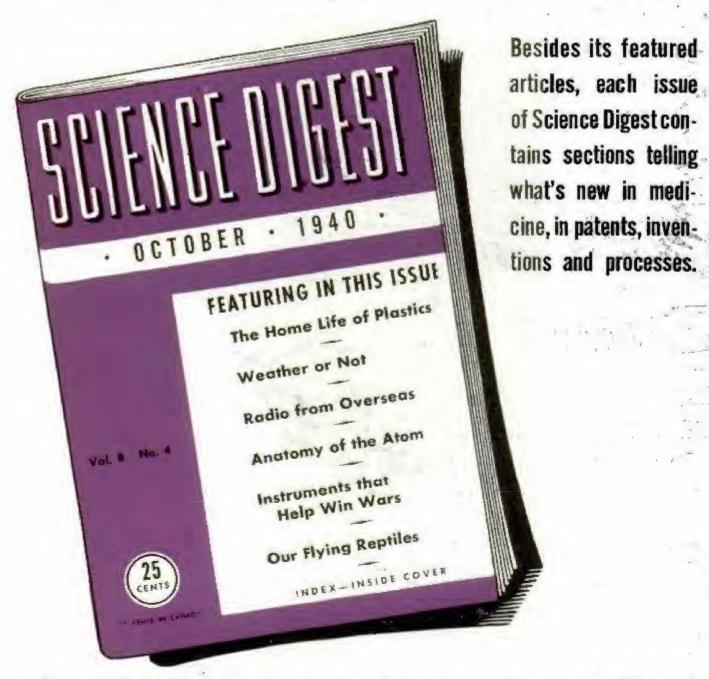
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OCTOBER, 1940 135A

Plastics, Radio, Weather!



Craftsmen find new fields opened to them by new and improved plastics, some of which are now stocked, like lumber, by dealers. Designers, manufacturers, home workshop fans can read with interest and profit "The Home Life of Plastics." Radio "hams" know that messages often are more successfully received from Australia and New Zealand, or sent there, than from or to places much nearer. Why that's true is just one of the interesting things about radio that you'll find

in "Radio from Overseas." And do you have your favorite weather signs? Which of them are causes and which are only indications? Read "Weather or Not." Three hundred scientific journals and bulletins were read by the editors of Science Digest to give you these ninety-six pages on nearly forty subjects. All for only a quarter.

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blast the rock away in the mountains. Huge new machines pick up tons of rock and earth at a time.

Recently the engineers had the problem of replacing a narrow wooden bridge on a busy mountain road with a wide concrete structure. Usually that is easy, but in this case there was no practical way to detour traffic around the work and the highway was too busy to be closed. The highway men did it by building the deck of the new bridge on temporary supports right alongside the old one. They routed traffic over the new deck, tore down the old bridge, erected new supports, and then skidded the deck sideways into location with twenty-ton capacity screw jacks.

In building another bridge across a deep canyon they found that the side approaches were of unstable material. Under the pounding of traffic the approach roads would settle badly, leaving the new bridge up in the air. They solved that by hinging a floating span at each end of the bridge. As settlement occurs the floating spans will tilt down, keeping the road open.

Once the highway department wanted to go through a mountain instead of over or around it. They rented hydraulic equipment from a gold mine near by. The hydraulic giants with nozzles from seven to nine inches in diameter washed the dirt away at the rate of 1,300 cubic yards an hour, some of the dirt being caught in barriers to build up the grade at one end. The cut measures 250 feet deep, 2,000 feet wide at the top, and 2,500 feet long.

When a highway follows a river, part of the construction program is to try to stabilize the stream channel so that the bank under the road won't be eaten away. Often a permanent channel for the stream is made by banking the walls with sacked concrete or laying wire and rock mattresses. One of the latest ideas is to anchor great steel shapes that resemble children's jacks to the exposed banks. The long arms of the jacks catch and retain debris brought down by the stream and this debris forms a mat that slows down the water, preventing erosion.

One unusual job that the California engineers had was to stand watch on a geyser. It was only a few hundred feet from a busy highway and occasionally spray was blown

(Continued to page 139A)



Try this yourself: next time you start a job that calls for working in metals, use Kester Metal Mender for all metallic joints.

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across the road. In freezing weather the pavement had to be kept sanded.

Another queer job that came under the heading of maintenance was to burn the 215-foot wooden windiammer "Minnie A. Caine." Used as a fishing barge on Santa Monica bay, the old vessel had broken loose in a gale and had grounded on the beach adjacent to U. S. 101. The ship's bulk changed the alongshore currents, building up a sandbar at one point and sending high waves ashore at another. The beach was eaten away and the highway was being undermined. Working at low tides, highway crews burned the ship down to its keel and at once the ocean began restoring the damage that had been done.

There are 14,000 miles of improved state highway in California exclusive of county and city systems. Some three million vehicles use the roads. During the 1940 fiscal year \$9,000,000 is being spent on maintenance and \$17,000,000 on the construction of new state highways.

Reshaping the World

(Continued from page 523)

appeal which will enable his product to appear more desirable than some of those already on the market. With this in mind, the student may decide, for instance, to construct a radio especially for the kitchen.

Next follows a study of the functional characteristics of the kitchen-quite a problem itself, for in the development of the modern kitchen, an instrument like a radio was not foreseen, and what might be placed nicely in one kitchen would prove a nuisance in another.

So, the new type of radio must be aimed at a spot which will suit a majority of kitchens and it is possible that the student may hit upon the idea of hanging the radio on the wall, out of the way of the busy housewife. Then the radio must look like something made especially to hang on a wall. The average radio on a kitchen wall would look out of place.

The public forms very strict habits with relation to the appearance of things in common use and if a new product is too radical in design, it is likely to excite the curiosity of the buyer, but not the desire to buy. For example, when the automobile

(Continued to page 140A)

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Tops in portable typewriters...Speedline Corona...three fine models. Fast, easy to operate, upto-date. Floating Shift, Touch Selector, etc. Smart carrying case also.

Also two Corona Zephyr models...compact, light (9 lbs. and 9% lbs. in case) and amazingly complete. Standard 84 - character keyboard, back spacer. Big value for students.





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With a little Smooth-On No. 1, you can easily and quickly tighten loose handles, casters, fixtures, bolts, etc., on furniture, tools and equipment all over the house.

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40-Page Handbook Describes dozens of practical, ingeni-ous repair jobs that save time and money. 170 illustrations. SMOOTH-ON SMOOTH-ON MFG. CO., Dept. 37 CEMENTS 574 Communipaw Ave., Jersey City, N. J. Please send Smooth-On Repair Book. Name Address Antor Car Boat Home, Factory at 10-40... **Power Plant** o it with SMOO

engine replaced the horse in the early cars, the vehicles retained the appearance of buggies, even to the whip socket, in some cases, because people were accustomed to seeing their vehicles look like that.

With this customer-habit factor in mind, the student may decide to make his radio look.like a clock, because clocks have hung on kitchen walls for hundreds of years. This decision makes necessary a study of clocks which are placed in kitchens.

Thus, weeks of research often come before the plastic material has been handed
to the student. Does the design conform to
the standard method of construction? Will
the radio house the right number of tubes?
Can the circuit be hooked up properly?
Has an extra process been added to assembling the cabinet? Every process costs
money. Is the instrument easily boxed for
shipment? The radio must be considered
as a package. Will it stand transportation
as freight? What about net weight?

The students discover there are engineers, production managers, sales experts and advertising men to satisfy and it dawns on them why they call it industrial design.

After they have solved the industrial problems they are ready for the purely artistic—the job of satisfying the public.

Small wonder then, that when a Pratt Institute youngster produced an automobile design which attracted attention in Detroit, he was grabbed up by General Motors. He knew an automobile not only as a vehicle, but as a mechanical device, a production-line problem, a sales unit in a highly competitive field, and so on.

Graduates of the Brooklyn school's industrial design department have found their way into the design laboratories of such great corporations as General Motors, Chrysler, General Electric, Westinghouse and Libbey-Owens-Ford. Many more have placed in smaller industrial organizations.

Such leading industrial designers as Walter Dorwin Teague, Henry Dreyfuss, Raymond Loewy and Norman Bel Geddes—the men who have revolutionized the styling of trains, buses, liners, autos, telephone instruments, typewriters and vacuum cleaners in recent years—have opened their doors to Pratt graduates.

And the public welcomes the products these youngsters all over the country are shaping—through the eyes of youth. Riding the Water Broncs

16 24

(Continued from page 491)

ute are translated into motion without great loss. One of the Gold Cup boats, which are larger, will lose as much as forty per cent of the efficiency from the slipping of the propeller in the boat's own wake.

As a hobby, outboard racing is fairly expensive, though several drivers who are professionals manage to offset at least a part of their expenses by winning cash prizes posted for different regatta events. An amateur will spend anywhere from a few dollars up to \$18,000 a year.

Supposing you decide to start out with a Class A boat. From a dealer you buy what is known as a racing stock motor that costs you \$225. A hull built by an experienced racing-boat builder will set you back \$160, two special propellers will run in the neighborhood of \$25 apiece, a water speedometer \$10 or \$15, a crash helmet and life preserver \$11, miscellaneous extras \$10.

But even with this outlay you're a long way from the starting line. Your motor must be taken apart and fixed so the factory speed guarantees are stepped up at least fifteen miles an hour. This costs from \$100 to \$200 to have it done by a specialist. The cylinders have to be chrome plated, the gas passageways opened up, and the pistons refitted so compression is as perfect as possible. All the other parts are accurately balanced, the lower unit of the motor is filed down and when it's all done your motor is rarin' to go.

Once you get going and win a few races, the speed virus gets in your blood and before long you're looking for new fields to conquer. That means more hulls, more motors. When I go to a regatta these days I take along two class A's, a B, C, and Fand there are others who have more.

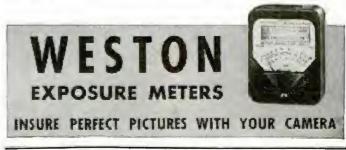
From outboards some drivers graduate into the 225-hydroplanes, the country's most popular inboard racing class. The maximum horsepower of these 225-boats is around 175, and the cost of the motor alone cannot exceed \$700. Built to a minimum of fifteen and one-half feet on the water line, a hydroplane is not large as inboards go, but what some of them have done in competitive races with boats seven and eight feet longer and with twice the horsepower has been remarkable.

(Continued to page 143A)

BOOKLET L for CAMERA



Here's a little booklet, especially prepared for beginners or occasional photographers, that illustrates and describes the easy way to get perfectly exposed pictures every time you use your still or movie camera. It's written in plain, understandable language, without confusing technicalities; and it's full of interesting, helpful illustrations. Be sure to send for your free copy ... learn how easy it is to get every black and white or color picture you take sharply exposed with brilliant detail . . . how simple it is to avoid film losses and picture disappointments due to incorrect exposure. Write today, to Weston Electrical Instrument Corporation, 671 Frelinghuysen Avenue, Newark, New Jersey.





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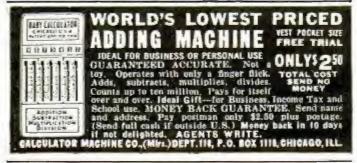


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(Continued from page 141A)

Jack O. Cooper, my father, switched from outboards to hydroplanes four years ago and now holds three world speed marks and a half dozen Canadian and American titles.

At Picton, Ontario, last summer, he decided to try for a mile straightaway record. In these tests, two successive mile runs are made, one going one way, the other back over the same route, and then the two times are averaged. On the first mile, a cross wind interfered. Nevertheless, his official speed for the first mile was 87.379 miles an hour. On the return trip, it was clocked at 87.591 for a general average of 87.485 miles an hour—an improvement on the old record of nearly two miles an hour.

Pop, as he's known around the regattas, is not resting on his laurels. He's building a new boat with which he hopes to raise the mark to ninety miles an hour. That's the way outboard drivers are.

The Search for War Metals

(Continued from page 483)

cury and are unaware that California, with fifty-nine mercury mines, is now fulfilling the domestic demand. Mercury is a vital war metal and now that its price has risen to \$192 per seventy-six-pound flask from the average of \$80 per flask earlier in the year many of the inactive California mines have resumed production.

Instead of prospecting for new deposits, the engineers of the Bureau of Mines are simply estimating the reserves that may be available in the known mineralized areas. A large deposit of low-grade manganese, for instance, is an important national asset even though it can't be mined profitably at present prices. Mining costs would be relatively unimportant in an emergency that cut off foreign shipments. The engineers are busy in several of the western states. One group may be rushing its work at 10,000 feet to complete its survey before snow falls, while another is fighting the heat on a desert expedition. Some travel by pack train while others use tractors.

One hundred and sixty-two of the most promising mineral deposits have been given field examinations and of these thirtythree seemed promising enough to warrant more detailed study. Several hundred additional properties will be examined.

(Continued to page 144A)



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In the hunt for antimony the engineers have explored two important areas in Idaho. Using tractors and bulldozers, the engineers built their own roads, stripped 3,000 cubic yards of earth from steep wooded hillsides, drove tunnels, and drilled into the formations to estimate their value.

In eastern Oregon one party took time out to fight a forest fire before they finished examining a chromite deposit. In Wyoming 9,000 trees had to be removed so that tractors could trench the surface of another chromite deposit. In Nevada several tungsten deposits have been explored.

Meanwhile prospectors who have been combing the west for gold and silver are turning their attention to the baser metals. A good ledge of tungsten or chromium ore may be worth more than a gold mine. Prospecting methods have changed and among other new developments is a kind of vacuum cleaner that collects heavy cuttings from holes drilled into underground formations. Such samples were formerly taken by slow, expensive core drilling.

Geologists have known for a long time that vegetation is often an indication of mineralized zones and that changes in the type or coloring of surface plants may be associated with changes in the minerals below. Prospectors who use airplanes for general studies pay special attention to ground where long lines or islands of brush differ from surrounding vegetation.

Vegetation is being analyzed for its mineral content as a way of learning whether commercial grades of ore may be found below the surface. Slight traces of many minerals are necessary parts of a healthy plant's diet and a plant absorbs minerals to the extent that each is present in the soil or the water that sustains it. A large percentage of one element in a plant suggests that a deposit exists near by.

A number of very necessary war metals, such as copper, lead, and zinc, are not regarded as strategic minerals because the United States already has tremendous quantities available. To maintain our supplies of copper one company is developing a huge body of low grade ore in Arizona. Known as the Clay ore body, it is a mile long, half a mile wide, and 800 feet deep. Half a million pounds of copper a day will be refined when the new mine is operating.

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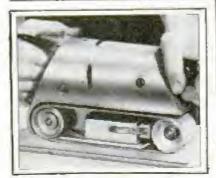
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Grass—Newest Food for Man

(Continued from page 511)

for instance, with powdered green grass added to the ingredients took on an unappetizing hue. However, by removing the chlorophyl, the green coloring matter in plant life, the powder assumed a neutral yellow color that looks and tastes like malted milk, and what's more, has an even greater vitamin potency than is otherwise the case. It gives white bread a golden color.

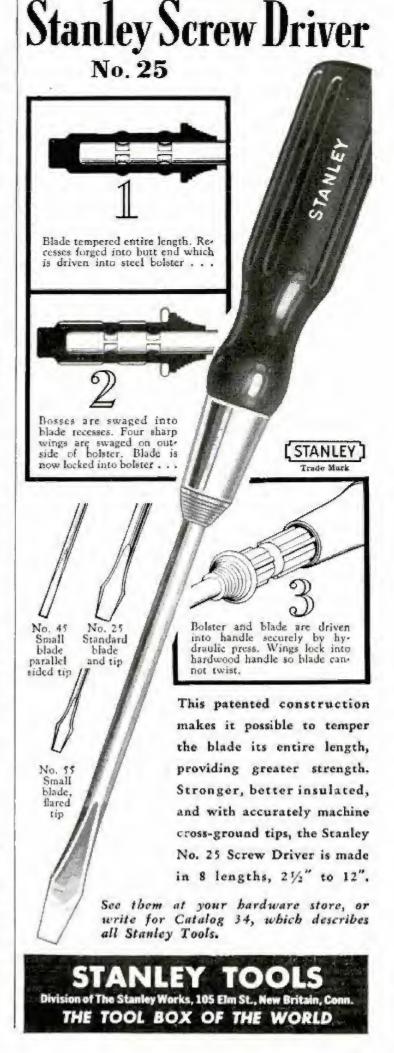
The story behind this development goes back a dozen years to an ill-fated commercial egg farm launched by a cereal chemist named Charles F. Schnabel and two associates. Everything was highly scientific, but once the 5,000 Leghorns and Rhode Island Reds started laying eggs they began dying. It wasn't long before the egg factory failed. Schnabel refused to call it quits until he'd gotten to the bottom of the mass deaths. The high mortality rate, he surmised, was due to lack of an adequate supply of blood-building materials. Increase the nutrients and he'd cut the death rate, possibly step up egg production.

Green leaves were a recognized source of the materials he was seeking so he turned first to alfalfa. As long as he kept the green material below ten per cent of the total ration, his chickens were in average good health but above that amount they appeared worse off.

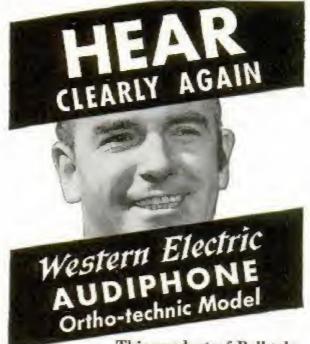
The next couple of years found him trying some twenty different vegetables and
field crops and he was on the point of
junking his theory when he chanced upon
a supplement of young oats, lettuce, and
rape plant. His 106 hens began eating thirty pounds of the green mixture daily and
during the next six months his records
showed a daily average of ninety-four
eggs. Another year of test feedings convinced him the record was no fluke.

At this juncture, Schnabel found himself out of a job. He set up a budget of a dollar a day for feeding his six children, his wife, and himself. He knew his family wasn't going to get all the food values needed in such low-cost meals. The thought of the young cereal grasses popped into his mind. If they were good for poultry and livestock why wouldn't they be good for humans?

Dried cereal grasses immersed in cream (Continued to page 148A)



OCTOBER, 1940



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became a breakfast dish for his family and for three years made up for the vitamin deficiencies in the budget meals. The children apparently thrived on the dish.

Meanwhile, at the University of Wisconsin, a young graduate student, George O. Kohler, working with Professor E. B. Hart and Dr. C. A. Elvehjem, famed biochemist, had become interested in a peculiar phenomenon taking place in the university's nutritional research laboratories. The rats used in tests were on a specific diet of milk, minerals, and salts the year around, yet they grew much more rapidly in summer than in winter. Inasmuch as the milk was all from the same dairy herd, the only possible solution to the problem lay in the fact there was a difference between summer and winter milk.

Doctor Kohler's preliminary studies adduced proof milk from cows on pasture contained some growth-promoting element not present in the milk of cows foraging on hay, a factor apparently different from all other known substances. This led to the discovery of the grass juice factor, a contribution to the ever-growing list of vitamins. When the juice of growing grass was added to winter milk, the rats immediately assumed summer growing habits.

Schnabel, convinced the vitamins in young grasses tended to diminish rapidly if something weren't done to preserve them, sought a more efficient drying method. A dairy he knew of had an unused piece of equipment that would fit his need so he called on Lynwood H. Smith, its president, to see if he might borrow it.

When the need of a preserving agent for the poultry supplement was mentioned, Smith felt that by mixing the green pulp with fresh buttermilk, then condensing the mixture to a thick paste, the carotene, the precursor of Vitamin A, which ordinarily depreciates rapidly when exposed to sunshine or air, could be preserved.

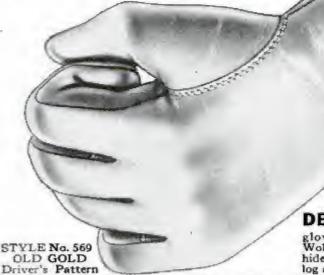
The upshot of their meeting was a job for Schnabel on Smith's farm where tests were made on chickens with young grasses and buttermilk-and a new industry was born. Not only is Cerophyl, as the product is called, rich in common vitamins, A. B. C. and G but animal assays have shown the presence of many others-E, K, nicotine acid, grass juice factor, B4, B6, R, U, and Factor W.



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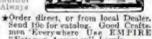
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